

# AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve all Classes interested in Soil Culture

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHFUL, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN—WASHINGTON

ORANGE JUDD, A. M., }  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

ESTABLISHED IN 1842.

{ \$1.00 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.  
SINGLE NUMBERS 10 CENTS.

VOL. XVIII—No. 2.]

NEW-YORK, FEBRUARY, 1859.

[NEW SERIES—No. 145

Office at 189 Water-st., (Near Fulton-st.)  
Contents, Terms, &c. on pages 60, 64.

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## American Agriculturist in German.

The AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST is published in  
both the English and German Languages. Both  
Editions are of Uniform size, and contain as  
nearly as possible the same Articles and Illustra-  
tions. The German Edition is furnished at the  
same rates as the English.

### February.

And all this uniform, uncolored scene  
Shall be dismantled of its fleecy load,  
And flush into variety again.  
From dearth to plenty, and from death to life,  
Is Nature's progress, when she lectures man  
In heavenly truth; evincing, as she makes  
The grand transition, that there lives and works  
A soul in all things, and that soul is God.

COWPER.

The change of the season in passing from Win-  
ter to Spring is not more marked and obvious than  
the transition now taking place in our rural dis-  
tricts. The last six or eight years has been a  
period of unexampled activity in agricultural im-  
provement. It has witnessed a great increase in  
the number and excellence of our agricultural  
journals, and societies. Not only have new pa-  
pers devoted to husbandry as a specialty been  
started, but many of our political, literary, and re-  
ligious journals have established a department de-  
voted to this art, and spread the teachings of  
science, and the experiments of our best farmers  
among multitudes, who never see a farm journal.  
These records of husbandry so widely circulated  
have stirred the minds of our rural population as  
never before, and State and County Societies  
have been formed so generally, that those with-  
out them are rare exceptions in all the northern  
and western States. These societies have their  
annual fairs, at which the best products of the  
farm and work shop are displayed, and the whole  
rural population turn out to enjoy a holiday, and  
learn something new of their neighbors. In ad-  
dition to all these means of instruction, Farmers'  
Clubs have been established in many villages and  
neighborhoods, meeting monthly, or oftener, to  
discuss in a social way crops, stock, and other  
matters of mutual interest.

The results of these multiplied teachings, ex-  
hibitions, and discussions, are already apparent,  
so that the most careless observer can hardly fail

to notice them. No part of the country has felt  
these influences more powerfully than New-Eng-  
land, and nowhere do we behold more substan-  
tial changes upon the farm. The whole popula-  
tion is astir, and the great event of the year is  
the County Fair, that calls out its ten or fifteen  
thousand people to witness the triumphs of the  
plow-share and the pruning knife. The spirit if  
not the letter of prophecy is here in the process  
of fulfilment.

A pleasing indication of this progress is the  
improvement in the style of farm houses. With  
rare exceptions every new house put up is much  
better than its predecessor. It is not only more  
conveniently arranged within, but its exterior is  
attractive, indicating that the owner has studied  
Downing, or consulted some competent architect  
in the location and building of his home. It is  
not thrust so entirely into the street, has an in-  
closure, and a carriage drive, and its ornamental  
trees. It does not belong to the packing box  
order of architecture, but has tasteful features  
that readily distinguish it from a barn or work-  
shop. The whole expression of the home indi-  
cates that the owner has a new ideal of domestic  
wants.

The barns and out buildings are even more im-  
proved than the dwellings. Almost without ex-  
ception every new barn is furnished with a cellar  
for the storing and manufacture of manures, and  
not unfrequently the yards are surrounded with  
sheds for the same purposes. Old barns are fre-  
quently removed to a new place where they can  
be put over a cellar. The conviction is pretty  
thoroughly wrought into the minds of farmers,  
that manure made under cover is far more val-  
uable, and that no good cultivator can afford  
the loss on stable manures exposed to the  
weather.

The use of absorbents is another sign of pro-  
gress upon the farm. One sees almost every-  
where long lines of muck thrown out from ditch-  
es, or large heaps drawn to fields that are to be  
planted the next season. The benefits derived from  
its use are so manifest, and so generally known  
that most farmers regard their muck swamps as  
mines of wealth. The shore farmers resort ex-  
tensively to sea weeds, and mud taken from the  
harbors and creeks. These are carted into the  
yard and stys, and mixed in various ways with  
stable manures, they not only furnish large quan-  
tities of carbonaceous matters, but the salt in  
them serves to fix the ammonia, and prevent all  
loss. Many have doubled the quantity of manure  
made upon the farm, and cultivators are becom-  
ing settled in the opinion, that it is far better to  
make, than to purchase manures. Guano, dis-  
solved bones and bone-dust are very good for  
special crops, but do not pay so well as the home-  
made article. The results of fifty loads of stable  
manure applied to an acre rarely fail to be satis-  
factory.

The reclaiming of waste land is another cheer-

ing indication. Almost every farm contains more  
or less of these unproductive acres, swamps,  
marshes, or rocky pastures. The swamps are  
generally the first to be improved because the  
necessary ditches furnish large quantities of  
muck. Every year there is a spirited competi-  
tion both in the State and County Societies for  
the premiums offered for this class of improve-  
ments. In every county hundreds of acres of  
these wild brush swamps have been turned into  
beautiful meadows, including bountiful crops of  
corn, potatoes, and grass. They are esteemed by  
their owners, as the best lands upon the farm.  
The reclaiming of rocky pastures is mainly con-  
fined to the vicinity of cities and villages, where  
land is high, and commands a great rent for pas-  
torage, or for gardening purposes. A hundred  
dollars will clear a very rough acre of land, and  
it is claimed by those who have tried the experi-  
ment, that where lands are worth two hundred  
dollars an acre for cultivation, it will pay a good  
interest on the investment necessary to remove  
the boulders.

The reclaiming of salt marshes, and under-  
draining, are beginning to attract attention, though  
the majority of farmers have not full faith in these  
improvements. Several tide gates have been put  
down within the past year on the sea board, and  
farmers are waiting for the results with great in-  
terest. Experiments in underdraining are much  
more common. The fact, that Albany has been  
the nearest depot for tile has retarded their use.  
A manufactory has been started the pres-  
ent season at Hartford, Ct., and the home-made  
article is coming into use. But the stone under-  
drains work well for a time, and demonstrate the  
economy of this operation for wet lands. There  
are also tile factories recently started at Whate-  
ly, and Manchester, Mass., and at Exeter, N. H.,  
good indications of the new leaven that is work-  
ing among our rural population.

But the greatest change of all, is in the mind  
of the farmer himself. There has been a great  
deal of mental quickening, and he sees that his  
business belongs to the class of improvable arts.  
Mind as well as muscle has a fair field for exer-  
cise upon the farm. This conviction is rapidly  
gaining strength in the rural parishes, and in some  
of them, the process of depopulation, that has  
been going on for forty years is already arrested.  
Enough of the sons are retained at home to make  
good the place of the fathers. Many a pastor's  
heart is cheered by this new spirit that is abroad  
upon the farm. There are fuller congregations  
upon the Sabbath, and evidence of increasing in-  
dustry and thrift during the week. In many  
places the day of "the good time coming" has  
already dawned. Its brightness even now il-  
lumines many an eye, cheers many a household,  
and causes many a desert place "to blossom as  
the rose." May its full power soon dispel every  
shade of ignorance, and scatter every mist of  
error.

## Calendar of Operations for Feb. 1859.

## Farm.

Judicious planning and care in retaining are equally important with the more apparent efforts made in securing successful results: thus, though the farmer has now neither fields to plow nor harvests to gather, he can do much this month that will "tell" before the year is ended. In addition to the various employments indicated, the thrifty cultivator will thoroughly mature his plans for the campaign before him—studying not only his own past experience, but that of others, and thus, with the aid of his journal and his books, he will be prepared to do the right thing, in the right way and at the right time. This will leave him no time to lounge away and worse than waste at the tavern or grocery.

**Buildings**—If any are to be erected this Spring, fell and hew the timber now, unless it has been on hand seasoning the past year, which is preferable. Replace the nails which the frost or high winds may have started, and baton up cracks through which cold and snow enter the stables.

**Cattle**—Attend carefully to feeding now. Remember, "well wintered is half summered." Give roots, carrots if you have them, with hay. Do not let the straw cutter rust for want of use. Make feeding racks for the yard. For good patterns see pages 43 and 358 of last Vol. Cows about to calve, should be well fed, and securely housed in roomy stalls.

**Cellars**—Look out for frost; examine and sort fruit and vegetables if decaying; send rats and mice on a long journey; and bottle cider for Summer use.

**Drains**—Examine frequently during thaws, and keep open. Much grain is lost by neglecting drain furrows in Winter.

**Fencing**—Continue to prepare materials. Work out posts and rails under cover on stormy days. Put old fences in order and build new as soon as frost will allow. Read the prize articles in course of publication.

**Flax and Hemp**—Finish dressing.

**Grain**—Thresh out any remaining on hand, and guard bins from rats and mice. Keep an eye to the market reports, and improve a good opportunity for selling.

**Grain Fields**—Keep all stock from grazing on those not covered with snow.

**Help**—Engage for coming season, before choice hands are employed.

**Horses and Mules**—Keep them sharp shod. Give roots with their feed as directed last month. Cut feed is most economical. Let them be well blanketed when not in use, and have plenty of bedding at night, also litter under them to absorb moisture when standing.

**Hogs**—Feed liberally, with warm, cooked food, with which mix charcoal and salt occasionally, especially for breeding sows. Keep pens well littered with leaves or short straw, to increase the stock of manure.

**Ice Houses**—Secure a good supply of ice if not already done, and see that the house is in good condition for preserving. Read Ice Houses in cellars, page 45.

**Manures**—Follow up the manufacturing as directed last month. The deeper the muck saturated with manure droppings and ammonia, the higher the corn in the crib next Fall. It may be carted to the fields for use, during the latter part of the month; if so, cover the heaps with soil or muck to absorb escaping ammonia. Better leave it under cover if practicable, till wanted to spread.

**Maple Sugar** may be made in some localities in the latter part of the month. Examine apparatus, put in order and provide what is necessary. Read "Hints on Maple Sugar making," in this No.

**Plowing**—Will commence this month in southern latitudes. Try the subsoiler on one field at least, and make a note of its effects.

**Potatoes**—Let seed be carefully selected. Keep different varieties from mixing. At the south, plant as early as the ground will answer, for northern market.

**Roads**—Notice where drifts obstruct, and shelter with trees as soon as ground will answer. See "Planting trees for Shelter" on page 5.

**Sheep**—Give grain and cut roots with hay. Shelter from storms, and keep separate from horses and cattle. Salt regularly, and supply with plenty of water.

**Tools**—Look to steel or iron, and prevent rust by oiling with lard having a little resin melted into it. Put all in thorough repair. Look over last year's *Agriculturist*, and select new tools for the coming season.

**Wood**—Read article on page 46 and complete the directions of last month.

## Orchard and Nursery.

There is usually very little to do in these during the present month. Occasionally an early Spring will admit of planting during the latter part of February. Nurserymen having southern orders to fill, in their anxiety to get them off at an early date, should guard especially against

the danger of freezing on the way. If the trees or shrubs chance to be frozen, unpack carefully, and bury the roots at once in earth or sand, leaving them until all the frost is out.

Everything should be in readiness, especially with the nurseryman, for the first working weather, as early planting is most desirable.

Unless old orchard trees have been well scraped as heretofore directed, attend to them now while there is leisure.

Grafting may be done at the South, and even in this latitude, during the latter part of this month, if the weather is open. Make no attempts while the limbs are frozen. March is the better month for grafting.

**Pruning**—Many old orchardists still prefer this season for pruning. Our advice is, if you will prune in the Spring, do it now rather than wait until March or April. Select mild weather for the operation, when frost is out of the limbs. We greatly prefer Summer and Autumn for pruning, even though they are more busy seasons. Hay must be attended to when it is ready, if a good article is wanted, and not when it suits your convenience, and if pruning is properly done, you must do this also at the right time even if there is a press of business. We have in mind several orchards which were nearly ruined by heavy Spring pruning.

**Scions**—Cut at any time during this month when not frozen. Use every precaution against errors in varieties. Select well known or labelled bearing trees to cut from, as much as possible. Read articles on pages 50 and 51.

**Snow banks** as they melt away in the Spring often do much damage to low branching standard and nursery trees. Examine such and shovel away the snow wherever it is splitting down the branches in settling.

**Stakes, labels, tallies, packing bags, mats, etc.**—Have a good stock in readiness for Spring use during the busy season of nursery sales and planting.

**Transplanting** may commence as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the soil is in working order.

## Kitchen and Fruit Garden.

The rapid communication with northern cities by steamers and railroads, has made gardening in many places at the South a very profitable business; and as the first produce in market commands the readiest sale and best price, the southern gardener will be actively engaged this month in sowing his early vegetables or transplanting from the frames at the very first opportunity. At the north little more can be done than to get well prepared, by planning the garden, arranging for hot beds, securing abundance of food for the plants in the shape of manure, providing brush, poles, and other necessary apparatus, and putting tools in order.

**Cold Frames**—Attend to as directed last month. When the weather is mild, those which may have been covered with snow can be cleared, and air admitted. Keep out frosts with suitable covering of matting, or straw.

**Cuttings of Currants, Gooseberries, grapes and quinces**, may be taken any time this month, when the wood is not frozen. To preserve till wanted, pack them in sand and keep from the light. Some bury them in a snow drift; they are, however, liable to be neglected and spoiled when the snow melts.

**Fences**—Repairing them is always in order. "A nail in time" may save much vexation by keeping out marauding pigs, fowls, etc.

**Grape Vines**—If not trimmed, as they should have been last Fall, prune early this month.

**Horse Radish**—May be dug for family use or marketing, when frost will allow. Save tops if needed for resetting.

**Hot Beds**—To secure very early vegetables, make the latter part of the month. See full directions on page 53, Vol. XVII.

**Manures**—Collect and make at every opportunity. Have what is needed for the hot-bed properly prepared and in readiness.

**Prune Currants and Gooseberries** early, if neglected at the proper season last Fall.

**Rhubarb**—To bring forward early, when frost allows take up a few roots and transplant in boxes in the green house. A box say one foot high, open at top and bottom, or a barrel sawed in halves, with both heads out, placed over the roots and filled with stable manure, will give a good start.

**Seeds**—Try these for yourselves in the house before sowing. Lay cotton in a vessel of water and sprinkle a few seeds of each kind upon it and place near the stove. They will germinate in a few days, if good. See article on page 51.

**Tools**—Procure improved kinds that have been tested. Most tools look well on paper. An ingenious gardener will make many for himself.

**Trees and Vines**—The bark, like the skin of an animal, should be kept free from parasites. Remove moss, and insects.

**Trellises and Arbors**—Repair old ones, erect new, and

in the latter have an eye to improvement in design. Slight embellishment even, adds greatly to the market value of your place.

## Flower Garden and Lawn.

There is little to be done here this month; unless mild weather should admit of setting out additional trees, or shrubs. New grounds, however, can be plotted, and the plan accurately delineated on paper. The general effect can thus be pretty well judged of, and much time saved. If frost will permit, warm borders may be dug, manured, and even planted with perennial roots and some hardy annuals. But except at the south it is usually better to defer this until next month.

**Evergreens**—Should be preserved from injury by snow, which sometimes accumulates sufficiently to break down the outer branches.

**Hot Beds**—Provide materials for and make during the latter part of the month for early annuals, cuttings, etc.

**Manures**—Collect a good supply of muck and stable manure for Spring use. A free dressing will promote a vigorous growth and a free bloom.

**Prune Altheas, Roses, Honeysuckles, etc.**, during the mild days of this month, unless they were attended to last Fall. Save the cuttings for propagating a new stock.

**Transplanting**—Hardy trees and shrubs may be set out during the latter part of the month if the frost will permit.

## Green-Houses.

The extreme cold of last month made artificial heat necessary in these. The dampness from fogs also could only be effectually dispelled by a stove or other apparatus to dry the atmosphere; but much heat should be avoided as it would push the plants into growth—45° is the highest point the mercury should reach.

During mild clear weather, open the upper ventilators to change the atmosphere and prevent a weak slender growth of wood. This is of great importance.

**Cape Bulbs** in pots, such as gladioluses, ixiads, oxalis, babianas, moreas, etc., are now growing finely and should be kept near the light to prevent a weak spindling appearance.

**Cuttings**—Put in Fuchsias, Geraniums, Verbenas, Hydrangeas, Myrtles, Jasmines, etc., to furnish a good stock for out-door planting.

Decaying leaves and branches should be removed at once to prevent any taint in the atmosphere. Cleanliness is also essential.

**Insects**—Prevention is better than cure. Allow them no foothold. Mice are sometimes troublesome among the bulbs and small shrubbery. Entrap them or leave "pussy" to do it at night.

Top dress unthrifty plants, and give a little manure water from time to time.

**Water**—Increase the amount as the plants push into growth, but avoid an excess. See that the drainage is good.

## Hot-Houses and Conservatories.

Great care will be requisite to maintain an even temperature during the changeable weather this month. Inattention to this particular, even for a few hours, may injure or even destroy the fruits of many days' patient care. The rapidly growing plants are very sensitive, and the successful culturist will now find some night work necessary to regulate the heating apparatus properly. The thermometer should often be consulted and every precaution taken to guard against sudden changes of temperature.

Many of the directions of last month are equally applicable for this.

**Air**—Now that the plants are in a rapidly growing state they will need frequent changes of air in clear mild weather, but cold currents should be avoided.

**Azalias** should now show a fine bloom if they have been properly cared for. Syringe freely.

**Bedding Plants**—Insert cuttings and make layers for a good stock of Petunias, Pelargoniums, Verbenas, Dianthus, Candytuft, Pansies, Dielytras, Daisies, etc., for early planting in the open border.

**Bulbs**—Keep a succession of plants in bloom by bringing forward those kept in a cool room, or the Green-House. Change the water of those in glasses, about twice a week.

**Camellias** still show a fine bloom. Attend to as directed last month.

**Carnations**—Make layers and cuttings for an increase of stock.

Cleanliness will add very much to the appearance of the houses or rooms and the healthiness of the plants.

**Cuttings**—A large number of growing plants now afford good shoots for cuttings. Plunge them at once into prepared pots of soil and cover with glasses.

**Grapes** require much care in the early houses this month. Those beginning to color or about ripening, need



a comparatively dry and warm atmosphere. Later vines require thinning, while others have been so kept back as to have scarcely "burst" into growth. Use sulphur to counteract or destroy mildew.

Insects are now troublesome, unless they have been kept in check by following the directions already given. Fumigating with tobacco will be found effectual to destroy any which have established themselves.

Repotting—Many rapid growing plants will now require a shift to pots of a larger size. Keep potting soil at all times in readiness.

Seeds of many of the hardy annuals should be sown for an early blooming stock to be planted in the open grounds.

Soil in Pots—Stir often to prevent its crusting. Keep free from weeds.

Syringing often will maintain a humid atmosphere, which is requisite at this season. Dampening the walls and floors has a similar effect.

Water—Give judiciously according to the wants of growing plants. Excess is quite as injurious as too little. Twice a week will usually be sufficient. Evaporating pans filled with water, and placed in different parts of the houses or rooms will be beneficial.

### The Apiary.

The period of inactivity in the hive still continues, but the first indications of life in nature without, will speedily awaken the dormant energies of the industrious community. When the warm beams of the sun begin to give promise of approaching Spring, pioneer bees will be seen circling away exploring the woods seeking sunny spots where the sap is starting from the new stumps, or the blue violet is timidly peeping from its covering of snow. It is natural for them to improve every mild day, and they should therefore be permitted to do so, care being necessary to prevent the inroads of robbers from neighboring swarms. This can be done by nearly closing the entrance so as to admit of the passage of one bee at a time.

The bee is a pattern housekeeper, and will leave no offensive material in the hive, if it can be removed. They may be observed tugging away at bits of decayed comb, dead bees, etc., to get them out of the way. The attentive bee-keeper will lighten their labors by sweeping out all filth from the shelves on which the hives are set.

Great care should be continued to allow sufficient ventilation. Bees resemble human beings in this respect as in many others, they must have fresh air. Keep the air passages free from all obstructions.

If bees have been housed be in no haste to remove them to the open air. If removed during the mild weather, occurring in the latter part of this month, you may be put to the trouble of returning them again on account of severe weather. Watch against all depredations of rats, mice and other vermin, as mentioned last month.

If any weak stocks should need feeding, place the food on tops of the hive covering the dishes in which the food is placed, and giving the bees access by means of holes through the hive; this will prevent its being plundered by other swarms.

### United States Agricultural Society.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of this Association was held at Washington, D. C., January 12, 13, and 14. We have received from two correspondents full reports of the proceedings from day to day, but we confess to being unable to find that anything, of special interest or practical utility to the public, transpired during the entire session, except the address of Prof. Henry, a portion of which we give on page 49. The object, scope, and intentions of the "Fairs" of the Society were set forth by the President, Gen. Tilghman, as follows:

"....They are intended to elevate the standard of excellence in agricultural productions and processes, and increase the amount of agricultural information in the various parts of the country, by carrying into each, successively, articles of a superior quality, and in some instances of a different kind from those previously exhibited at the local fairs; and, secondly, to disseminate information in regard to the improvements and institutions of each portion of the country among the people of the other portions, by inducing individuals and delegations from remote sections to congregate in a degree which the local fairs, however important, do not seem to effect."

These are laudable objects, and if properly followed, would all be very well. How sad have been the failures hitherto, we have shown from year to year. In subsequent discussions with reference to the location of the next Show, there seemed to be a general concurrence in the opinion, that the main point to be considered was "where would the most money be likely to be made." After a strong effort on the part of gentlemen from the West, it was finally

"Resolved, as the sense of this meeting, that the region of the great Northwest and valley of the Mississippi is entitled to the holding of the next exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society in its midst, and it recommends that the said exhibition be held in that region, provided the inducements offered by it are equally advantageous with those offered by any other place or section of the country."

#### OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 1859.

President—General Tench Tilghman, Maryland.  
For Vice Presidents—Ezekiel Holmes, Me.; H. F. French, N. H.; F. Holbrook, Vt.; John Brooks, Mass.; E. Dyer, R. I.; H. A. Dyer, Conn.; B. P. Johnson, N. Y.; J. H. Frazee, N. J.; A. Clemens, Pa.; John Jones, Del.; A. Kimmell, Md.; W. A. Spence, Va.; H. K. Burgwyn, N. C.; F. W. Allston, S. C.; R. Peters, Ga.; N. B. Cloud, Ala.; N. N. Harrison, Miss.; J. D. B. De Bow, La.; F. G. Cary, O.; W. L. Underwood, Ky.; D. P. Holloway, Ind.; D. S. Curtis, Wis.; J. A. Kennicott, Ill.; J. R. Barret, Mo.; H. Ledyard, Mich.; S. A. Mallory, Fla.; Thos. Affleck, Texas; Legrand Byington, Iowa; A. W. McKee, Cal.; H. M. Rich, Minn.; W. W. Corcoran, D. C.; M. H. Otero, New-Mexico; J. H. Lane, Oregon; L. S. Stevens, Washington Territory; W. T. Brown, Nebraska; W. F. M. Army, Kansas; Sylvester Mowray, Arizona; A. G. Fuller, Dacotah.

Executive Committee—H. Wager, N. Y.; J. McGowan, Pa.; Josiah Ware, Va.; F. Smyth, N. H.; J. Merryman, Md.; H. Capron, Ill.; J. M. Cannon, Iowa.

Treasurer—B. B. French, D. C.

Secretary—Ben Perley Poore, Mass. (Washington, D. C.)

### "The Advisory Board of Agriculturists of the Patent Office."

Under this specious name a sort of select coterie of persons, privately summoned from various parts of the country, assembled at Washington during the past month. So far as we can learn, this secret gathering consisted mainly of individuals who could be moulded to the purposes and to do the bidding of the "Agricultural Clerk." To make all sure on this point they were informed that they would be paid \$25 each, and five cents per mile each way in going to and returning from Washington. They went—they saw—and Browne conquered—if we may judge from the results of the council, which seemed to be a sort of indorsement of the operations of the "seed clerk." The whole affair was a sham, so far as any practical good to the country is concerned. We will copy here a "notice" of the affair, as given by a daily paper at the head-quarters, the *Washington States*:

"In another column of this paper we insert the introductory proceedings of the Agricultural Congress, which the Secretary of the Interior has assumed the prerogative of convening at the Federal Capital. We had intended to furnish our own report of this august assemblage, but its deliberations are conducted in secrecy. The motive of such an arrangement is not intelligible, except upon the hypothesis that it is designed to screen the ignorance of members from the contemptuous criticism of the farmers of the country.

It will be observed by reference to the list of delegates, that it contains no name of conspicuous reputation in the agricultural community, unless the inevitable Wilder and the ubiquitous Poore are to be regarded as celebrities in that

department of human achievement. Take Virginia for example: neither Ruffin, nor Cocke, nor Seddon, nor any other eminent agriculturist from that State, is present to redeem the Convention from ridicule. But Mr. W. W. Corcoran is there, in all the glory of conscious millions, and with that authoritative aspect which awes the vulgar multitude into reluctant admiration. If the problem were to devise the readiest expedient for depleting the public treasury by the exaction of usurious interest, we could imagine no more suggestive representative than Cræsus Corcoran. What possible light he may shed on the mysteries of agricultural science, is more than we can conjecture, seeing that his only exploit in this province is the successful cultivation of grass on the numerous lots in the city, which he has dressed out for speculative prices. However, according to the maxim of the King of Brobdingnag, this service may be thought to entitle him to the gratitude of mankind.

What with Wilder's impartial presidency and Corcoran's luminous intellect, some people may anticipate splendid results of this Agricultural Congress. When we add the stimulus of 5 cents mileage and \$25 for personal expenses, which the Secretary of the Interior generously allows out of the public treasury, we may expect the members to exert themselves with the most productive industry. Nor should we omit the contributions of the statistical Browne from our calculations—from Browne historically known as *D. Jay*—of Browne who, like another Xerxes, has exhausted empires in his travels, and has enriched this favored land with the accumulated treasures of his researches in "furrin parts"—of Browne who, after years of laborious apprenticeship in the subordinate position of clerk to a Department, cherishes the commendable ambition of creating a Bureau of Agriculture, and himself presiding over its operations—of Browne who, having distributed seed enough to nourish a forest of canaries, is at last impatient to reap the harvest of reward in his own personal promotion.

After all, however, we would be pleased if some one of the notabilities associated with Mr. D. J. Browne in this laudable (!) enterprise would indicate the particular clause of the Constitution which authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to appropriate money from the public treasury in the shape of contributions to an Agricultural Congress? Whence does he derive the power of creating any such anomalous body? It is a fungus on the political system. It is one of those unhealthy developments which betray a constitutional disorder.

### Larger Yield of Rye.

A. J. Horton, of Southold, Suffolk Co., L. I., referring to Mr. Ryerson's account of a "Large Yield of Rye," in Jan. No. p. 7, says he can beat that. He gathered 76½ bushels of rye from 1½ acres, or 43 and 47 bushels per acre. The soil was a heavy loam. The sward was broken up in the Spring of 1856, and cropped with corn. This was followed in 1857 by potatoes, 25 loads of barnyard manure having been plowed under in the Spring. On Sept. 26, he sowed 1½ bushels per acre of common rye, without further manuring, and harvested the above product in 1858. This will do for Suffolk Co., L. I. Who speaks next?

In Sweden, a man who is seen four times drunk is deprived of a vote at elections. A good law for any country.

### Hiring Help.

Have you hired your help for the coming season? If not, no time should be lost in looking out for such as you will like. In a few weeks you may only be able to get such as are without places for just cause. Cheap help, so called, may prove very dear, before the summer is over. A hired man often wastes more than his wages in poor plowing, careless planting or hoeing, and unskillful harvesting.

Where the cultivator labors in the field with his hired hands, it may do to employ one or two inexperienced men, but where they are to work by themselves, it is very poor economy. An underpaid man will frequently make his wages an excuse for neglect, but where full price is paid, you may reasonably demand full work.

Regard should be had to the moral character of hired men. A faithful, trustworthy man, though inferior in physical strength or in skill, will prove more valuable than a reckless character, whatever may be his other qualifications. Especially is this true where there are children in the family. Their welfare is superior to every consideration of mere profit; and association with profane or immoral hired men has corrupted many a promising youth.

In concluding a bargain, nothing should be left indefinite. The terms should be plainly committed to writing, for the best memories sometimes prove treacherous, and it is curious to notice, how mistakes are usually made in favor of those interested. A law-suit at the end of a summer's work is a costly luxury, which few can afford, and none enjoy; and a little precaution now may save all its unpleasantness.

### Note on Improved King Philip Corn.

A NEW VARIETY TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

The "King Philip Corn" we have hitherto distributed, has been fully described. Its chief excellence has been stated to be its very early maturity, which specially adapted it to localities where the seasons are short and cold, and for replanting where a first planting of other varieties had failed to vegetate. The average ripening has been in 90 to 93 days, though it has often been ready to gather in 85 days from planting. The main objection has been its small growth of stalk, and comparatively moderate yield, as a general rule, though very large crops have often been obtained. We intended to distribute this year the same variety as hitherto, but have obtained a few bushels of what we think to be

*An improved kind.*—This we have just procured of Mr. Carpenter, Westchester Co., N. Y. In the samples we have examined, the ears are much larger than in the former kind. It is said to have been obtained, at first, by crossing the old King Philip with the Dutton, and carefully selecting the best ears for the past three seasons. It is of larger growth than the King Philip, and requires about ten days longer to mature. This last fact is the only objection; still a large, prolific corn that will mature in 100 days is very desirable. From all we can learn in regard to this, we think it abundantly worthy of trial, and we shall gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity to substitute it for the old King Philip variety, which we had prepared to distribute. Our supply may not hold out for all applicants, but we shall send it as long as it lasts. If obliged towards the close of our distribution to return to the other variety, we will, with a pen, mark the word *old* on such packages. All who get unmarked packages

will then understand that they are of what is termed the "Improved King Philip."

### Number of Squares in an Acre.

The following table is convenient for reference when desiring to know the number of trees or plants which will occupy an acre when set out at given distances apart. It will also assist in determining the amount of manure to be applied to a hill, when distributing a certain number of pounds or loads upon an acre. An acre contains 43,560 square feet. It is usually better to keep this number in mind, and at once obtain the number of squares by dividing this sum (43,560) by the number of feet inclosed by four hills.

Distance apart each way.	No. of sqrs. or hills.	Distance apart each way.	No. of sqrs. or hills.
1 foot.....	43,560	12 feet.....	362
1 1/4 feet.....	10,890	14 ".....	312
2 ".....	6,969	16 ".....	272
2 1/4 ".....	6,969	18 ".....	242
3 ".....	4,840	20 ".....	218
3 1/4 ".....	3,535	22 ".....	198
4 ".....	2,722	24 ".....	182
5 ".....	1,742	26 ".....	167
6 ".....	1,210	28 ".....	156
8 ".....	680	30 ".....	145
10 ".....	435	35 ".....	124

If the rows are three feet apart each way, there will be 3 times 3 feet, or 9 feet in each square, and 43,560 divided by 9 gives 4840 squares, trees, or hills. If the rows be 2 feet apart one way and 3 feet the other, the enclosed space will be 2 times 3, or 6 feet. 43,560 divided by 6, gives 7260 as the number of squares. In rows 3 by 3 1/2 feet there are 10 1/2 feet. 43,560 divided by 10 1/2, gives 4148 squares; and so for other distances.

This table would not be quite accurate if allowance be made for rows around the entire outside, as in that case there would be one more row each way than the number of squares. Thus, in a square plot of one acre, with the rows 3 feet apart each way, there would be, say 69 rows each way. As two of the corner trees would count both ways, we must add to the 4840 hills, (in the table), 4 times 69 hills, less 2, or 274, making the total number 5114. These figures are illustrative only, and not exact, as the precise number of rows in the instance given is a little over 69 1/2.

### Hints on Making Maple Sugar.

Last year several essays were received in response to our call for experience on this important topic, which were published on pages 5 and 37 of Vol. 17. Other lengthy communications, for which we had not room, were received from A. Brown, Somerset Co., Pa.; S. R. Griggs, Fayston (!); L. F. A., Andover, Me.; J. K. M., Canterbury, N. H.; H. H. Doolittle, Ontario Co., N. Y., etc. We embody here the principal suggestions contained in these letters.

The time for tapping of course varies with the locality and the character of the season. In many places in ordinary seasons, a large amount of sugar is made during February. The business should commence as early as the sap will flow.

Where but few trees are attended to, the ordinary utensils and fixtures used for household purposes will be sufficient; but where sugar-making is a part of the business of the farm, the grove or "sap bush," numbering from a hundred to thousands of trees, special, and in some cases extensive preparations are necessary.

For tapping, a 3/4 inch bit is generally preferred. The holes should be 1 1/2 to 2 inches deep, entering only the sap wood, and inclining slightly upwards, to prevent the sap remaining and souring in the orifice. "Boxing," or chipping is condemned, as injurious to the tree, and the gash

being exposed to the light and air, the wood soon dries, so as to require additional cutting or "freshening."

Wooden tubes, of quill elder, sumach, or pine, as may be most convenient, are preferable to tin or sheet iron. They should be fitted closely into the opening. Pails or tubs of cedar or pine, the inside unpainted, with a board cover to exclude leaves and dust, are the best vessels for receiving the sap from the tree. They may be hooped with wood, and made quite cheaply. It is well to have the top of larger diameter than the bottom, so that ice may be easily removed, in case the sap should freeze in them. An auger hole or notch cut in the edge of the cover, admits the sap into the pail.

When the trees are quite near each other, labor may be saved by using leading troughs, running from tree to tree, and all finally emptying into a receiving tub. Or a line of troughs from near the centre of the bush to the tub, may be made, into which the collecting vessels are emptied. There is more wasted in this manner from leaking, spilling, and evaporation, than in the common method of hauling the sap to the boiling place in a capacious covered tub, mounted on a sled.

Sheet iron pans, (Ruesia iron is best), five or six inches deep, set in mason work, so that the bottom is exposed to the heat, will evaporate the sap much more rapidly, than can be done in the old-fashioned arch kettle.

A brick wall built across the middle of the fire chamber, to within two inches of the bottom of the pan, will throw the heat against the bottom of the pan, and save much fuel.

Some of the most successful sugar makers say, it is of the greatest importance in sugar making, that the sap be reduced to syrup in the shortest possible time after being collected. Although the sap may not sour in several days, its properties are undoubtedly affected by light and air, and the amount of crystallizable matter considerably diminished, so that even if the "run" be light for a few days, it is best to reduce to syrup every 8 or 12 hours. This precaution is even more necessary in the latter part of the season, when the sap crystallizes with more difficulty. By judicious boiling the available run may be prolonged several days.

To "sugar off," the syrup should be strained through a thick woolen cloth into a medium sized kettle, and reduced slowly, carefully guarding against burning, as this would greatly injure the color and quality of the sugar. It is sufficiently done, when threads of the thick syrup break off short like glass, after cooling quickly in water or on snow. Then remove it from the fire, stir it continually, and when it begins to "grain," immediately turn it into the moulds. Grained sugar is prepared in the same manner, only that the stirring is continued until the mass is dry.

We have said nothing of clarifying, for experience has proved that if proper care be taken to keep every article used in the various processes *scrupulously clean*, and to prevent leaves, insects, etc., from falling into the sap, no clarifying agents are needed. We have eaten maple sugar of the finest quality both as to flavor and color, made entirely without clarifying.

The best form for city retail market, is in small cakes, weighing from two to four ounces, as these are more convenient for peddling out.

A lazy fellow lying down on the grass said, Oh, how I do wish that this was called work, and well paid for! Plenty more of same sort.



## Diseased Eyes of Animals.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

We have an ox which, (we suppose,) in some frolic of his, had an eye injured. For several days, perhaps two weeks, water ran freely, and it appeared to be very painful—even the light added to the pain. Supposing he would soon get over it we did nothing about it, until a white coating commenced covering the eye-ball. We then applied burned alum. The film has covered the whole ball, and he seems to be blind in that eye. Will you, Sir, or any of your correspondents, inform me what is the proper course to pursue? By so doing you will very much oblige one subscriber—perhaps many more besides. J. W. Bowen Prairie, Jones Co., Iowa.

The above was handed to an intelligent medical friend, and he replied as follows:

The ox of thy correspondent had inflammation of the conjunctiva, (a delicate membrane lining the lid and covering the front of the eye). He should have placed the animal in a dark stall, reduced its allowance of food, applied cold evaporating washes, and given every morning, a dose of salts, (sulphate of magnesia). The 'film' was caused by an effusion of fibrin beneath the membrane. If blood vessels are seen snooting across, the prospect of cure is unpromising. Alum is best applied by blowing it through a quill. If this fails, use every morning a few drops of solution of nitrate of silver (lunar caustic), four grains to an ounce of water, or a solution of iodine, two grains to an ounce of water. Be careful not to overdo the treatment and thus awaken a new inflammation. Perseverance in this plan is essential to success.

## Profit of Poultry. No. II.—Feeding, etc.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

To provoke interesting and useful comparisons, I send an account of the products of my hen-yard during the year just closed. I had on hand Jan. 1, 1858, 31 fowls, of which we lost 4 hens by casualties before July 1. During the year we used in the family 81 fowls, and had on hand at the end of the year 45 more, making a total increase of 95 fowls. The yield of eggs during the year amounted to 3465!—ranging by months as follows:

January.....	274	May.....	327	September.....	212
February.....	368	June.....	309	October.....	184
March.....	385	July.....	252	November.....	295
April.....	315	August.....	281	December.....	233

Total cost of grain for these hens, including also the food of about fifty pigeons, \$70.03. There is nothing to boast of in the pecuniary results, and nothing to be particularly remarked in the account, except, perhaps, the constant yield of eggs, which I attribute entirely to the fact that my hens have grain of all kinds always before them. This I find invariably the case wherever hens lay all the time.

My fowls are of mixed breed, have a warm house, a large yard, and a wide range,\* whenever no harm can be done by their scratching. They get, besides the grain, all the refuse of the house, and chopped meat two or three times a week in winter.† Instead of eighty-one fowls for the table, I should have had at least 125, but lost a good many by the intrusion of a strange dog,‡

\* A needful thing for poultry in all circumstances.

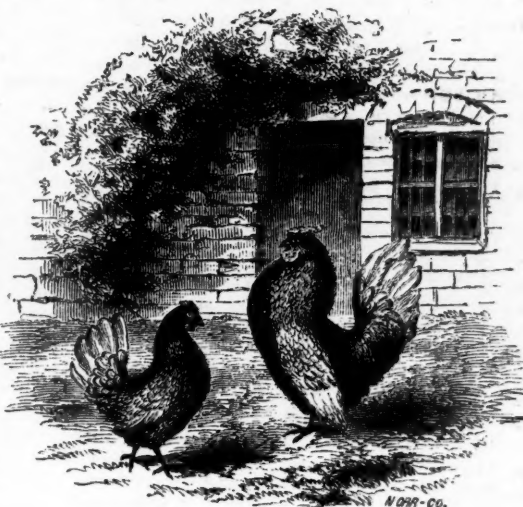
† An important point. Hens must have animal food supplied, when shut off from picking up insects, or it is useless to expect them to lay well.

‡ Dogs are almost always in mischief of some kind, unless their tails are cut off close—as close as the Dutchman would have them cut, that is, close behind the ears.

and more were lost by an unfortunate experiment with grease, against a too copious use of which I would warn your readers. In November my March pullets began to lay. As a matter of course, my hen-house is kept clean, with a full supply of ashes for dusting, and broken oyster-shells to furnish lime for the eggs.

January 3rd, 1859.

SUBSCRIBER.



## Silver Spangled Bantams.

The Bantam is the smallest specimen of fowl, and may with propriety be called the pigmy of the gallinaceous tribe. Diminutive size and bold carriage are important points in all Bantams. These beautiful emblems of pride and consequence, are peculiarly fancy fowls; they have been accused of not being a useful kind, as of course there is little meat in a fowl which, when full grown, should weigh, the cock about one pound, the hen less—the eggs being small in proportion; but their eggs are delicacies which would tempt almost any invalid. They must be considered more an object of curiosity than utility, and of course must expect to be viewed with no peculiar favor in this country except as "pets."

Though extremely small in size, the Bantam cock is elegantly formed, and remarkable for his grotesque figure, his courageous and passionate temper, his amusing pomposness of manner, his overweening assumption and arrogance; and his propensity to fight, and force every rival to "turn tail," has caused him many difficulties. He is a beautiful example of a great soul in a small body. He will attack a Cochon or Brahma ten times his own weight. Dixon says, "His full rose-comb, and deep depending wattles are plump and red; but this disproportionate size affords a most unfortunate hold for the beak of his adversary; but he cares not for that; a little glory is worth a good deal of pecking and pinching, and it is not a slight punishment, nor a merely occasional infliction of it, that will make him give in. The great hens, too, look down upon him on a first introduction, though they afterwards find out that they might as well have received him in a more feminine manner."

He is a pleasing little fellow, though an impudent consequential atom. Oh! the little saucy, strutting, foppish scamp! Who would think that such a contemptible minikin as that, should have the assurance to strut and parade his insignificant person in the presence of great hens, and should presume to show such marked attention to the members of families of weight and substance—before the Misses, and still more, the

Mistresses Cochon, Brahma and Dorking! I declare, there is no telling to what length impudence will go, so long as Bantams escape extermination.

The Silver Spangled Bantam, is, perhaps, the most beautiful of the whole family. For perfection of model and beauty of plumage, nothing can exceed them. The pair figured at the head of this article, are the property of M. Vasson, Esq., Springside. They are, as may be seen in the portraits, beautifully marked; the tail of the cock is square, like that of the hen, without sickle-feathers, and carried high; and the head thrown back, the head and tail nearly meeting; the wings jauntily dropping until they nearly brush the ground; they have a rose-comb nicely pointed, and projecting behind; and light blue legs. The accuracy of marking is a very important point. The feathers are spangled, that is, the ends tipped with black; and the more exact this marking, and the more it extends to all the feathers of the bird, the greater its value. The ground color is ivory-white or rich cream, the ends of the feathers tipped with black. The cocks are hen-feathered as well as hen-tailed; they have neither hackles nor plumes.

The plumage of the hen is similar to that of the cock. They are very good and early layers, most excellent sitters, sedulous and affectionate mothers, but murderous step-mothers—that is, if you attempt to change, or add to, the number of the brood they have hatched themselves; they will welcome the little strangers by making raw heads and bloody bones of them before you can say "Jack Robinson." Their chickens are of a creamy white, with two longitudinal dark stripes on the body.

The Bantams are the fowls of all others for the village or city. We have known them to prosper and lay well through the winter in an under-ground room or cellar, well lighted. They are very domestic, often making their nests in the kitchen, depositing their eggs in the cradle or cupboard, when permitted. They have been known to lay even in a lady's work-basket.

From their size and delicacy they are very convenient, as they always stand in the place of chickens, where small ones are not to be had; and as they are full-breasted and plump, they make a tolerable substitute for a partridge when potted and "smothered." C. N. BEMENT.

Springside, Poughkeepsie.

## Mistakes about Bees.

A great many people have undertaken to write about bees, without much knowledge of the subject themselves; and others, who have had experience in bee-keeping for many years, have gained very little insight into the nature and habits of this wonderful insect. Many of the books in the long list of publications on bees and bee-culture, which was printed in the Agriculturist in September, (vol. 17, p. 270,) profess to give the results of long and patient study of their habits, but so many of these works abound with errors, that we are tempted sometimes to indorse David's hasty utterance, and say that "all men are liars." Not that these misrepresentations are intentional, but when vision fails, imagination helps out the deficiency. And then, again, people often see things through other persons' eyes. If neighbor So-and-so says that drones lay eggs, they will be sure to see the thing done the next time they

peep into the hive. If it is a time-honored tradition that beating tin pails will make a swarm alight, they will be able to demonstrate its truth by twenty cases in their own experience; and if they find anything in print, they will appeal to the types as settling the facts beyond all controversy. This willingness to assent to the views of others, often reminds us of a scene in one of Shakespeare's plays:

"Hamlet. Do you see yonder cloud, that's almost in the shape of a camel?"

Polonius. By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed.

Ham. Methinks it is like a weasel.

Pol. It is backed like a weasel.

Ham. Or like a whale?

Pol. Very like a whale."

But this is a digression from our purpose, viz., to speak of some mistakes and inaccuracies about bees which have found their way into print.

#### THE CYCLOPEDIA ON BEES.

In the very high commendation we lately gave to the *New American Cyclopaedia*, we said there were some things, as the articles on scientific agriculture, agricultural chemistry, etc., which we should have preferred to change had they been submitted to us. With these articles we must class those on bees and bee-keeping, which are decidedly defective and behind the age. We judge from these articles that the writer was entirely indebted to books for his facts, and that he had not access to the latest authorities, either in the practical or theoretical department. Only thus can we explain the absence of all allusion to Langstroth, Dzierzon, Von Berlepsch, and Von Siebold, and to the discovery of the Italian or Virgilian bee, which has recently found such favor in Germany, and the failure even to mention the subject of *Parthenogen*. And then, some of the statements and opinions expressed in the article, seem to us quite wide of the mark. The writer says the queen "is easily recognized by the slowness of her march." On the contrary, we have often been struck with the rapidity with which she moves through the crowd of workers, her long legs fitting her to make better progress than they.

"If she be removed from the hive, the whole swarm will follow her." A swarm of bees will follow and cluster around a queen when on their flight in search of a new home. But we doubt whether the bees of a hive would leave it to seek a queen that had been quietly taken from them. They certainly do not follow her in any considerable numbers in her flight to seek the drones; and in attempting to force swarms, we find that many bees will remain on the brood comb after the queen has gone.

"It is inferred that bees have an imperfect sense of taste and smell, from their collecting honey indiscriminately from sweet scented and offensive flowers." Perhaps it is inferred; but there are a score of facts to show that their sense of smell, at least, is far from being imperfect. Some odors are exceedingly offensive to them, and others attract them speedily.

The use of drones is "only to impregnate the females, and secondarily to supply food to the swallows and carnivorous insects which prey upon them when they take their mid-day flights." If they serve only one purpose, there is no need of "secondarily." But what are carnivorous insects? "Carnivorous" means eating or feeding on flesh, and we think a drone can fairly claim to be "neither fish, flesh, nor fowl." Besides, there's another use; toads eat them, and toads are not carnivorous insects.

"The eggs producing workers are deposited in 6-sided horizontal cells; the cells of the drones

are somewhat irregular in their form, and those of the queens are large, circular, and hang perpendicularly." Does this writer understand his subject when he makes such a comparison between worker and drone cells? If he has seen cells "somewhat irregular in form" used for drone brood, he has certainly made a discovery.

During the construction of the royal cells "the queen lays the eggs of workers, and when they are finished, she deposits a single egg in each, at one or two days' interval, worker eggs being laid in the interval." Perhaps so; only we do not believe it. We do not know of an observer who has seen a queen-cell carried on to its completion before an egg was placed in it. Indeed, we think the queen would be somewhat puzzled to lay the egg after the cell was finished; it would need to be laid on the outside.

"How workers that lay eggs become impregnated, has not been ascertained. The eggs thus produced are always those of males; this (!) is accounted for, by their having passed their grub state in cells contiguous to the royal ones." Not a very satisfactory explanation of a mystery.

The results of weighing hives "go to prove that the bee-keeper should have some means of ascertaining the weight of his hives daily throughout the season." Not at all! It is interesting as a matter of fact to know how much or how little honey is accumulated from day to day; and if anybody can spend time to ascertain, we shall be glad to publish results; but an apiarist can find a much better use for his time than to weigh every hive, morning and evening, and record the result. We should as soon advise a farmer to make an hourly record of the state of his barometer. We will not devote more space to these articles, with which, as our comments show, we are not satisfied.

#### Illinois Farmers Vindicated.

To the Editor of the American Agriculturist:

I notice in the December *Agriculturist* (vol. 17, p. 364) "Notes on Prairie Farming," from the pen of H. H., Prairie Cottage, Christian Co., Ill. Upon the perusal of his letter it struck me as very unchristian, though emanating from Christian Co. Lest the system of farming in Illinois should be judged, (and necessarily condemned), by such an epistle, I think a "counter irritant" should be introduced. Now for one, I enter my protest to all such representations of Illinois farming. I do not think H. H. knowingly misrepresented facts, but his picture is over-drawn, and presents matters in a wrong light. Such a letter, in such a paper, with such a circulation, and wielding such influence, is entitled to consideration. A system of farming more ridiculous, slovenish, wasteful, and ignorant, than the one described, could not well be conceived. Take for example the description of how prairie farmers harvest here in Illinois. If the writer had confined his remarks to Christian Co., or a few isolated localities in his vicinity, I should have nothing to say, knowing nothing about the management of affairs thereabouts. But the remarks apparently refer to the State generally. Indeed he says: "Want of order and economy characterize the harvest in nearly all Illinois." No Eastern man could read the description without exclaiming: "What a miserable set of farmers those Illinois cultivators are!" so blind to their own good, so negligent of business, so ignorant of husbandry, and so criminally wasteful of what little they do raise."

Let us look at the statements. 1st. "Without the aid of reaping machines it would be impos-

sible to save sufficient grain in Illinois, to bread the people of the State;" and in proof it is said that: "The waste of grain in cutting, shocking, stacking, and threshing is, in the writer's opinion, all of 20 per cent. There is in fact sufficient grain wasted in Illinois every year, to feed some of the small States." No comment is necessary.

Again, threshing is done in such a hurry, and the waste and extra expense of feeding so many extra hands is enormous. Here is a question for Daboll: If a threshing machine, threshing three hundred bushels of wheat in a day, with 14 men to tend, require 7 pounds of bread, 10 pounds of pork, and the necessary trimmings to fill out, how much would one man with a common flail require, while threshing the same amount?

I will say here, that the necessary waste incurred in threshing in the field, need not be 1 bushel in 500 greater than in barn threshing. Burning of straw is not practiced in the North-eastern counties. Neatness, order, and dispatch characterize harvest operations; farm buildings are numerous; there is no storing of small grain in rail cribs among most of the farmers; fields well cultivated and well fenced, abound. Dairying, wool growing, fruit raising, the culture of wheat, oats, and corn, are all understood and practiced, I will say, as well, and to as great an extent by our farmers, as by farmers in Eastern States. Economy, intelligence, prudence, and thrift characterize a large portion of the farming community. There are exceptions, of course; point us to the State that claims perfection in all points.

The being obliged to sell crops as soon as harvested, is an evil, it is true. But the statement that half or more goes to pay unnecessary store bills, is a little uncharitable. Our State is new, our land was cheap and reasonable, but the farming population, in the main, are men of limited means. Many have bought lands, in the purchase of which all their resources have been exhausted. Houses, barns, and fences are needed; teams, tools, sheep, and cows must be purchased, all of which must be paid for from the proceeds of yet unimproved farms. The new comer, a single handed man, with an empty purse, yet with unflinching nerves and indomitable will, sets to work to improve, beautify, and pay for a home. Small sums of money are hired of land-sharks, (there's nothing made in vain), at enormous rates of interest. Credit is obtained on lumber, tools, etc., all in good faith for prompt payment after harvest. And this prompt selling of crops to pay honest debts, instead of putting off creditors in hopes of getting better prices, is to be set down to the credit of our farmers, rather than to be brought up against them. Securing and cultivating a farm under these adverse circumstances is preferable to living homeless.

I admit that many have miscalculated, and got into inextricable debt, and multitudes, in avoiding debt, have been obliged to slight every thing on their farms not yielding direct and immediately profitable returns; but failures in crops, a tight money market, depreciation of bread stuffs, and other drawbacks incident to new countries, should have much weight in excusing defects in farming, and delinquencies in liquidation of debts. But even this class embraces only a portion of the inhabitants of the State.

An unobservant person, thinking only of the rich product of our new lands, may wonder that Western farmers do not keep out of debt, and get rich immediately. It should be kept in mind that a large portion of the proceeds of the first years must go for fences, dwellings, barns, live stock,



implements, etc. "The credit system—running up large store-bills, half of which could be dispensed with," H. H. would have you believe, is the great drawback upon Illinois farmers. Where is the evidence of this? Do you find them clad in purple and fine linen? Far from it. "Kentucky jeans" and "hickory shirtings," bottomed with coarse but substantial cowhide boots, are the more common habiliments of farmers. Tea, sugar, coffee, etc., are supposed to be only necessary for kid-gloved, silk-hatted, patent-leathered, rose-scented gents, and never intended for hard-fisted, sun-browned tillers of the soil.

But enough of this—perhaps too much. I hope those better posted, perhaps, than H. H. or myself, in Illinois matters generally, will speak out on both sides of the subject, and let us have it set forth in its proper light. For myself I must say that no other State in the Union has, *in the same length of time*, made more rapid strides in agricultural development on a healthy basis, in improving and beautifying the surface, dotting it with convenient buildings; and in producing according to its population, a greater surplus of the staples of life.

G. D. SMITH.

Newport, Lake Co., Ill.

### Our Far-West Territories.

INTERESTING STATEMENTS IN REGARD TO THEIR AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES AND DEFECTS.

Many enthusiastic writers upon the agricultural resources of our country have marshalled forth a startling array of figures to show that we have available land enough to support a population equal, perhaps, to the present entire inhabitants of the earth. They have pointed to a territory westward, larger than the whole area of the organized States. Prof. Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, in a recent address, throws a "wet blanket" (or rather a dry one) upon the agricultural prospects of the vast region lying west of Iowa and Nebraska, and extending to and beyond the Rocky Mountains, including the corresponding wide belt in Mexico, and stretching northward indefinitely towards the polar regions. After referring to the extended observations made upon the meteorology of the country, he says:

"My experience has already demonstrated the correctness of the views previously held by scientific men, and based upon the theory of the motions of the atmosphere. The wind blowing from the shores of the Pacific in an easterly direction were at first laden with moisture, but this was deposited on the western slopes of the successive ranges of mountains, until, having descended to the plain country to the east of the Rocky Mountains, they came almost with the hot breath of a simoon to parch vegetation, and rendered a vast extent of country, almost one half of the width of the American Continent *quite unfit for tillage*.

The general character of the soil between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic is that of great fertility, and as a whole, in its natural condition, with some exceptions at the West, is well supplied with timber. That portion also on the western side of the Mississippi, as far as the 98th meridian, including the States of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota, and portions of the Territory of Kansas and Nebraska, are fertile, though abounding in prairies, and subject occasionally to drouths. But the whole space to the West, between the meridian and the Rocky Mountains, denominated the Great American Plains, is a barren waste, over which

the eye may roam to the extent of the visible horizon with scarcely an object to break the monotony.

From the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific, with the exception of the rich but narrow belt along the ocean, the country may also be considered, in comparison with other portions of the United States, a wilderness unfitted for the uses of the husbandman; although in some of the mountain valleys, as at Salt Lake, by means of irrigation, a precarious supply of food may be obtained sufficient to sustain a considerable population, provided they can be induced to submit to privations, from which American citizens generally would shrink.

The portions of the mountain system further south are equally inhospitable, though they have been represented to be of a different character. In traversing this region, whole days are frequently passed without meeting a rivulet or spring of water to slake the thirst of the weary traveler. Dr. Letherman, surgeon of the United States army at Fort Defiance, describes the entire country along the parallel of 35° [that is west of Arkansas] as consisting of a series of mountain ridges; with a general direction north and south inclining to the west, and broken in many places by deep cracks, as it were, across the ridge, denominated *cañons*, which afford in some cases the only means of traversing the country, except with great labor and difficulty.

The district inhabited by the Navajo Indians [northern Central New Mexico] has had the reputation of being a good grazing country, and its fame has reached the eastern portions of the United States; but, taking the region at large, it will be found that, with regard to abundance of natural pasturage, it has been vastly overrated, and we have no hesitation in stating, says the same authority, that were the flocks and herds now belonging to the Indians doubled, they could not be sustained. There is required for grazing and producing hay for the consumption of animals at Fort Defiance, garrisoned by two companies, one of which is partly mounted, *fifty square miles*; and this is barely sufficient for the purpose. The barrenness and desolation so inseparably connected with immense masses of rocks and hills scantily supplied with water, are here seen and felt in their fullest extent. The character of the districts lying across the mountain system, along the 32d parallel, which has been still more highly lauded for its productiveness, is, from reliable accounts, in strict accordance with the *a priori* inferences which may be drawn in regard to its climate from the influence of the mountain ranges, and the direction of the prevailing winds.

Dr. Antisell, geologist to one of the exploring expeditions, describes the country along the parallels of 32° to 33° [in the latitude of northern Texas] as equally deficient in the essentials of support for an ordinary civilized community. On the west, within these parallels, occurs the great Colorado desert, extending to the river of the same name, which empties into the Gulf of California. From the Colorado River, which is generally regarded as the eastern edge of the Colorado basin, in its southern portion, the land rises eastward by a series of easy grades, until the summit of the main ridge of the mountain system is gained, at a point about 500 miles east of that river. For the first 250 miles, the ascent is across a series of erupted hills, of comparatively recent date, and similar in constitution to the line hills and ridges which are dotted over the various levels of the basin country. The entire district is bare of soil and vegetation, except a few varie-

ties of cactus. Over the greater portion of the northern part of Sonora and the southern part of New Mexico sterility reigns supreme.

At the mountain bases may exist a few springs and wells, and in a few depressions of the general level of the surface sloping to the Pacific may be grassy spots; but such are the exceptions. A dry, parched, disintegrated sand and gravel is the usual soil, completely destitute of vegetable matter, and not capable of retaining moisture. The Winter rains which fall on the Pacific coast, west of the coast range of mountains, do not reach to the region eastward. This is partly supplied with its moisture from the Gulf of California, but chiefly by the southeast wind from the Gulf of Mexico, flowing up between the ridges of mountains. We hazard nothing in saying that the mountains, as a whole, can be of little value as the theatre of civilized life in the present state of general science and practical agriculture. It is true that a considerable portion of the interior is *comparatively little known from actual exploration*; but its general character can be inferred from that which has been explored. As has been said before, it consists of an elevated swell of land, covered with ridges running in a northerly direction, inclining to the west.

The western slopes, or those which face the ocean, are better supplied with moisture, and contain more vegetation than the eastern slopes; and this increases as we approach the Pacific, along the coast of which, throughout the whole boundary of the United States to the Gulf of California, exists a border of land of delightful climate and of fertile soil, varying from fifty to two hundred miles in width. The transition, however, from this border to a parallel district in the interior, is of the most marked and astonishing character. Starting from the sea-coast, and leaving a temperature of 65°, we may, in the course of a single day's journey, in some cases, reach an arid valley, in which the thermometer in the shade marks a temperature of 110°.

We have stated that the entire region west of the 98th degree of west longitude, with the exception of a small portion of western Texas, and the narrow border along the Pacific, is a country of comparatively little value to the agriculturist; and, perhaps, it will astonish the reader, if we direct his attention to the fact that this line, which passes southward from Lake Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico, will divide the whole surface of the United States into two nearly equal parts. This statement, when fully appreciated, will serve to dissipate some of the dreams which have been considered as realities, as to the destiny of the western part of the North American Continent. Truth, however, transcends even the laudable feelings of pride of country; and, in order properly to direct the policy of this great confederacy, it is necessary to be well acquainted with the theatre on which its future history is to be enacted, and by whose character it will mainly be shaped.

A young man called one evening upon a wealthy person, to know how he had made his money. The rich man having learned his business, gave the first exemplification of it by blowing out the lamp, saying they could talk as well in the dark.

Instead of retaliating upon the man who calls you a villain, a liar, or a thief, coolly inform him that you have not sufficient confidence in his veracity to believe him.

An untarnished character is of vastly more importance than glossy boots.

For the American Agriculturist.

### Making Farm Life Attractive.

A few months ago, something was said of the importance to farmers, of cultivating a habit of observation, and of making notes of their experience for the benefit of others. A few thoughts on this general subject may well be added:

Why should not every farmer make a cabinet collection of every kind of rock upon his land? All soils are made up, in no small measure, of these rocks disintegrated (worn down) by the action of the elements. Having small specimens of these rocks arranged on shelves in his house, he can daily see the chief constituent elements of his farm. To do this, he need not himself be a scientific chemist or mineralogist; the neighboring school-teacher or educated physician will tell him the precise name and quality of every stone. Then let him label them, and at his leisure read and learn all he can about his cabinet of minerals.

Near by, let him have a collection of the different soils on his farm; from the hill and valley, top soil, subsoil, alluvial, clay, gravel, and sand. Let these be arranged in vials and bottles, and neatly labeled. And let him not stop here. Do not trees grow in his wood-lot and orchard, and grasses and grains in his fields? Let him select specimens of every variety of wood—say a small cross-section of every sort of tree, specimens of their leaves, flowers, and seed, and samples of dried grasses and grains, neatly prepared and labeled. And as to fruits, if he has a son or daughter skilled in drawing, they should make pictures of all the fruits growing in his orchard and garden. A gentleman of our acquaintance has begun to make such a collection of fruits, drawn and colored by his own hand in leisure hours, and it is very beautiful. He takes the fruits as they successively ripen, drawing and painting them in water-colors. He began with the earliest strawberry, and included the cherries, raspberries, currants, summer pears, apples, and Fall and Winter fruit. Those which escape him one year, he obtains the next year. When he has copied the whole circle of fruits growing in his neighborhood, he intends to have the drawings handsomely bound. They will make a set of books of rare interest and value!

Let the farmer and his family make some collection of this sort. And to these things let him add specimens of the insects injurious to vegetation, classified and named. Nor would it be amiss to make or purchase drawings of useful animals, farm implements, and various works of art and taste.

But enough has now been said to show that a wide field of pleasing and useful observation lies open before any farmer. How much would the habit we have advocated tend to liberalize his views, give him a new and stronger interest in his chosen profession, and elevate it also in the minds of others! It would then be plainly seen that there is no end to the subjects of interesting and useful observation and thought suggested by the pursuits of agriculture. And what a happy influence would this habit of observation exert on the children educated on a farm so conducted! They would grow up, thinking men and women, and they would honor and fondly love the calling of agriculture.

How foolish it is for farmers to complain of their children forsaking the homestead at the earliest opportunity, while such parents do nothing to invest farming with some kind of attractions! Their children would be dolts, if they didn't wish to get away from some farms that we know of. But let parents show them that agriculture is

something besides drudgery; show them that it awakens thought, demands thought, and honors thought, and they will not run away from it. They will not hasten to towns and cities to engage in trades and professions less honorable, more uncertain of yielding pecuniary advantage, and less healthful to body and mind and morals.

ONE WHO TRIES TO PRACTICE  
WHAT HE PREACHES.

### A Flock of Sheep Cheaply Saved, AND SOME OTHER MATTERS.

Many noteworthy incidents, as well as valuable suggestions, not designed for publication, come interwoven with business letters, or as post-scripts. From a letter before us, written by an Illinois clergyman enclosing his subscription, we gather that the writer joined the Illinois (Methodist) Conference 32 years ago, when that conference embraced the whole of that great State, and Indiana also. He refers to the progress he has witnessed during thirty years in that region—which has been very great, surely. The writer, like many others of his class, has labored to promote the physical as well as spiritual well-being his wide parish, and as one means of securing this end, he has endeavored to increase their intelligence, by inducing them to read agricultural papers. We will give one instance of his success in his own words:

"I once, with much persuasion, got a rich farmer—a brother in the church—to take an agricultural paper. It so chanced that he had a fine flock of sheep, several of which were just then attacked with a disease which carried them off, and he was in great fear that he would lose the whole. Going to the village post-office for his agricultural paper, and opening it, the first article that caught his eye was on sheep, which described the disease in his own flock, and the remedy. He went to the drug store at once, procured the medicine and cured his sheep. When I came round again to preach at his house, he was quite jubilant over what his paper had done for him. I took occasion to point out the advantages of such papers; but with what success you shall see. At the end of the year I remarked to him that it was time to send on for the next volume. His reply was: 'O! I have twelve numbers already, and they will do as long as I live;' and there he quit, I suppose forever. But such things are doubtless familiar to you. I have often thought it strange, when visiting wealthy farmers, to find any quantity of trifling 'Dollar Papers' on their tables, but very seldom a good agricultural work. I should be glad to see this remedied; I hope it may be."

We can bring hundreds of farmers who will cheerfully acknowledge that a single hint in a little paragraph in the *Agriculturist* has set in motion a train of thought, which resulted in the addition of hundreds of dollars to their income. But we think the number is not large of those who have once tested the advantage of reading and thinking upon their own profession, who will afterwards neglect to avail themselves of the continuance of such advantages. If we employed agents to canvass, we should send them first into those places, where there were the greatest number of agricultural papers already taken, believing, as we do, that those who have read most, are the most eager to add to the sources of their information. Still, there are many instances like the one detailed above. We seldom keep track of them in our business experience, but here is one in point. We have on file a letter from a New-Jersey farmer, written early in 1857, in

which he voluntarily states that a single hint in the *Agriculturist* had certainly put at least \$100 into his pocket; yet, in January, 1858, when a neighbor called upon him in making up a club, he said, "Times were hard, and he guessed he would not take any agricultural paper at present." We happen to know that in the same month he purchased four \$100 shares of Railroad stock as an investment. We are glad to have on record that the *Agriculturist* enabled him to pay for at least one of those shares, from each of which he is now deriving \$10 annual dividend. Perhaps if he had continued taking the paper, he might have added another R. R. share. But this is a matter he must look to. The profit of three or five cents on his single subscription, and a hundred other similar ones, is not a matter to be worried about.

This instance was only introduced for illustration. We feel confident that no man can take and read the very poorest agricultural paper in the land, without getting hints every year, that will directly or indirectly repay him many times the cost. Evidences of this in our own experience and in that of others, more than anything else, led us to our present calling. We expect to continue in it, and we shall continue to use every honorable exertion to increase our circulation, by advertisements as we can afford them, (though odd or 'outré' as our friend Major Freas calls them); and by offers of premiums, seeds, etc., etc. (clap-trap if you like), to catch the public eye and stir up the farmer to read, READ, READ and THINK. If we can get their attention one year, the main work will be accomplished as a general thing. They may afterwards change to other agricultural papers, which happen to suit their taste or fancy better, if they like. We shall seek out methods of drawing other readers,—and they are coming in by thousands. Our main effort is to attract the attention of the masses. Others may put what construction they like upon our mode of doing business, (some of our staid cotemporaries have buttoned up their coats and shrugged their shoulders, as much as to say—well we can't exactly tell what they would say), but we believe we are doing a positive good to the country, in the course we are pursuing, and our conservative cotemporaries will reap a benefit in increased circulation, at which we shall rejoice greatly.—Take another look at our premiums for new subscribers.

### To Prevent Cows from Kicking.

Mr. Smith, of Saratoga Co., N. Y., says he subdues refractory cows thus: "Take a rope or leather strap, 18 inches long, and fasten the two ends firmly together. Raise the fore leg of the animal, upon the side of the milker, and bending the foot back upon the leg, slip the strap or rope over the knee joint, so that the animal cannot get her foot upon the ground. This will prevent the possibility of the cow's kicking, for, to raise either hind foot she must stand upon both fore feet. When properly adjusted the pail is safe."

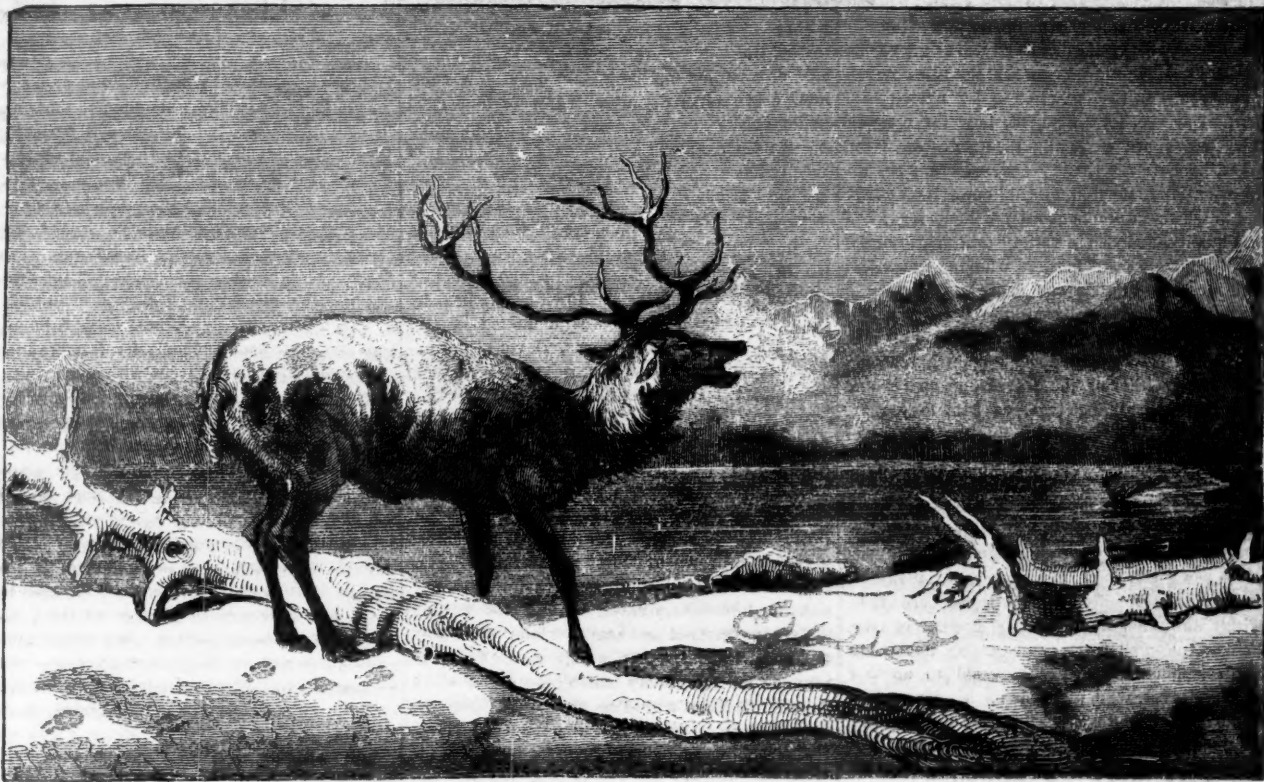
A coach-driver stopped at a house to get some water for the young ladies in the carriage. Being asked why he stopped, he promptly replied: "to water my flowers."

Rarely trust a person who solicits your confidence. It is usually done for betrayal.

The world makes us talkers, but solitude makes us thinkers.

Evil does not always come to injure.





THE CHALLENGE—From a Painting by Landseer.

From among the large number of beautiful sketches on hand, and in course of preparation by our engravers for the present volume, we select for this number, as appropriate to the season, the above fine engraving from a painting by one of England's most celebrated artists, Edwin Landseer, who is considered the best painter of animals, of the present age. No engraving can exhibit the striking effect of a painting of this character, on which the colors stand out prominent, yet a picture like the above—which is as perfect a representation of the painting as can be given in black and white, on a reduced scale—will afford the reader a very correct idea of this "master piece" which comparatively few will ever have the privilege of seeing.

The scene is one of those wild, grand ones, for which Scotland is so famous. The chief object of interest is the noble but enraged Stag in the foreground. The story connected with the picture runs thus: On a fine moonlight evening, in winter, a stag was observed to approach the border of a lake, and bellow out his notes of defiance or CHALLENGE, to another stag standing on the opposite shore. The animal thus challenged, instantly plunged into the water and swam across to meet his foe. (The head and antlers of the swimming animal can be seen in the picture.) They engaged in a fierce combat which resulted in the death of both, for they were found dead the next morning, with their long branching antlers firmly and almost inextricably locked together. Landseer executed two accompanying paintings, one "The Combat," and the other "The Result," which it is unnecessary to copy here, as the imagination will very readily supply them after an examination of the above. We need make no apology for the introduction of engravings like these. They not only give pleasure, but cultivate a correct taste for the beautiful in art. While our aim is to give the *Agriculturist* a general practical character, we also believe it may, in a

measure, take the place of an artistic magazine, and be an ornamental volume upon the table of every country resident. We are more than pleased, that the constantly increasing circulation of this journal, bids fair to enable us to furnish a still larger number of engravings of high order, and at the same time supply the paper to subscribers at a price *unprecedented* in the history of literature. Our readers must have already noted that while the *Agriculturist* is furnished to clubs at barely 80 cents per annum, its size, variety of instructive articles, and amount of engravings, are scarcely excelled by any of the three dollar magazines.

Written for the *American Agriculturist*.—Prize Articles

### The Dairy . . . . II.

#### SELECTION OF COWS.

We are not going into a discussion of the different breeds of the cow, as understood by cattle breeders, but of the general characteristics of those best suited to dairy purposes. We care not what her breed, whether it be Short Horn, Ayrshire, Devon, Hereford, Alderney, or Native, further than that she be a *good milker*. As to the *quality* of her milk, it should always be rich; as to the *quantity*, that may depend upon the size of the cow, and the amount of food she consumes. We have known cows that yielded thirty quarts of milk in the height of the season, which were not so economical to the dairyman as others not giving over twenty quarts. One ate enormously, the other moderately. It depends much, also, on the quality of the pasturage as to what description of cow the dairyman should adopt. A compact, even bodied cow will frequently live and thrive, and do her best in milk, where a large rangy beast would barely live, and yield less milk than the other; while, in abundant pastures, where the food is easily obtained, the largest animal, giving a pro-

portionate quantity, would be preferable. So, in the selection of his cows the dairyman should understand the *quality* of his pastures, equally with the description of cows with which he is to stock them.

#### DESCRIPTION OF A DAIRY COW.

As a rule, we would say, that a compact, small boned cow of her kind, whatever the breed may be, is the most economical for the dairy. A raw-boned, big-jointed, loose-made beast is usually a huge feeder, and a poor keeper, and although sometimes an extraordinary milker, is not, on the whole, a profitable one to keep. Our own style of dairy cow should have a small head, with a lively eye, and a light horn. Her neck should be thin, her shoulders open, or well spread apart; her ribs round, and extend well back towards her hips; her back straight; her loins and hips broad; her rump level; her flanks deep; her belly capacious, without being *paunchy*; her twist full, and low; her udder clean, silky in the hair, with fair sized taper teats, standing well apart as they issue from the bag. When milked dry, the udder should be small, and shrunken—not meaty—but when full, it should be plump, and hard; her tail fine; her legs and feet small; and with all these she should possess a quiet disposition. It may also be added, that she have a yellow skin beneath the hair, be the hair what color it may, and the hair be fine, silky, and if possible, waving, or slightly curling. These qualities, of course, will make a *handsome* cow—an objection in the eye of no one, and certainly none to the disadvantage of the cow possessing good milking properties. A beast the contrary of this description, although possibly a good milker, is not desirable; and when the kind we have described is just as easy to be obtained, as its opposite, if one will but take a little pains, the standard of perfection, or as near to it as possible, may as well be adhered to as otherwise. We say a yellow skin, as distinguished from a white, or

pale one. A yellow skin usually indicates a rich milker, while a pale skin indicates that of inferior quality. All observing dairymen will acknowledge this fact. Exceptions occur, but the rule obtains.

Now, in contra-distinction to our choice of a cow, let us see, for a moment, how the mass of dairy cows are generally obtained. At "the West," where the cattle breeders usually pay little attention to the milking qualities of their cows, and breed them promiscuously without regard to that quality, and also in various other parts of the country among poor farmers who raise now and then a cow to sell, the cow drovers, or buyers go out to make their purchases for the dairy markets—the dairymen, as a rule, do not rear their heifer calves, but depend upon purchasing their cows, either of the drovers, or go out and pick them up themselves, as best they may. Of course, the selection by the drovers or dairymen, is not of the best, for the owners of them prize their superior quality as valuable to themselves, and the purchasers, consequently, are enabled to buy such only as the owners are disposed to sell. They are therefore a promiscuous lot—a few good, some indifferent, and many inferior, if not decidedly bad. These cows are taken by the dairymen, and after trial a year or two, the worst are culled out by them as not being worth keeping, and in turn are sold to another passing drover, who proceeds on his journey towards market, and sells to a further dairyman, till the poor rejected beasts are finally brought up in the butcher's shambles! And such is the history of very many of the dairy herds in our country—a short sighted, miserable, unprofitable mode of keeping up a supply of milch cows.

In opposition to this, we would propose a different plan. Having selected the best herd of cows we could find, instead of getting a wretched inferior bull, with just vitality enough in him to beget a calf, as the means of enabling the cow to produce her yearly supply of milk, and then destroying the calf soon after birth, we would select a bull of some distinct milk producing breed—and that breed should be of a kind fitted for our own soil, and climate. This bull should be descended from a good milking dam, and also from a sire whose ancestors were of a good milking tribe, if possible. A close examination into these facts would give the bull a pedigree, of course, which we would demand. In addition to his milk begetting qualities, he should add those of good shape, fineness, and general quality peculiar to his breed. We would preserve the heifer calves by this bull from the best cows, and rear them to keep the number of our cows good, as the calves grow up and the cows are worn out or displaced. According to the general physiological rules of "like begetting like," our young cows would nearly all turn out the first class of milkers. We would educate the calves to the development of their best milking faculties, thus: They should be well fed—not pampered; allowed plenty of new milk for the first month, then gradually led off into skimmed milk, or whey, with a little oat, corn, or oil meal, and be kept all the while in a sweet grass pasture. At four months they would be fit to wean. From that time forward, pasture in good grass until Winter. Through the Winter, soft sweet hay, and perhaps a quart of oats, or half the quantity of Indian meal a day, until grass in the Spring. Then good grass pasture another Summer, and hay through the Winter. At two years old, grass again for the Summer, and turned to the bull in July—even her own sire, if he has proved a good getter, for such close breeding is not hurtful for a second generation. The young cow then comes in, a finely developed beast, and being gentle and docile, as she would be if prop-

erly treated, she furnishes a fine milking cow, perhaps at a little extra cost, but one which, in the natural order of things, is worth one-and-a-half, or two that can be obtained out of a common drove for dairy use. Three or four good heifer calves thus raised every year by an intelligent dairyman, will well keep up his herd of twenty cows, and in that proportion for a smaller or larger number.

As a proof of the advantage of thus breeding up a herd of dairy cows, the writer would relate his own experience: Many years ago we kept a milk dairy for supplying the town people near by with milk. Our herd was a mixed one of different breeds—Short Horns, Devons, and natives, with intermediate crosses, and grades. We selected two compact, well made bulls—one Short Horn, and one Devon, pure in blood, each of his kind. To the pure bred cows of each breed we bred the same blooded bull, and crossed them upon the grade and native cows, as we judged best to effect our object of producing good milkers. Our thorough bred calves of each breed, we of course raised, and selected the most promising of the grade heifer calves to raise for future dairy cows. In the course of our operations we bred and reared about sixty heifers, and with one exception only, when they came into cow's estate, every individual turned out a superior milker, with fine form, and excellent quality of carcase as well. But we will give the sequel. After some years continuance, not because the business was unprofitable, but because we could not give the personal attention to it that it required, we discontinued the occupation, and sold off the most of our herd, chiefly grades—a part of them at public sale. Coming in, as they did, at different seasons of the year to give a regular supply of milk as far as possible, our cows were in different conditions as to flesh. The full milkers were in moderate flesh; the dry, and nearly dry ones were in excellent condition. As they were put up to be sold, since every buyer wanted "a first-rate milker," the question as to her milking quality was asked of each one when offered. There was a difference, of course, some better, some not equally good. Yet, no matter what the answer might be, the fattest cows, in every instance, brought the most money! So much for the eye, over utility!

But many dairymen say they "can't afford to raise their cows. It is cheaper to buy them, and run the chances." We do not believe it—at least, as the chances run within our own experience, and observation. It may be objected, and with considerable truth, we admit, as in late examples, that the Short Horns and Devons are not milkers. To this we reply, that they are, naturally, good milkers; but the modern breeders have bred for flesh, and symmetry of shape, chiefly, and in striving for these have measurably bred out, or sacrificed the milking quality. But the milk can be brought back again by breeding. That quality is still latent in the animal, and use and education will restore it in the manner we have indicated. Still, we are not advocating breeds of cattle, we speak only of selecting good dairy cows, and perpetuating their best milking qualities in their descendants.

We will talk about treatment and feeding in our next.

Love is better than a pair of spectacles to make everything seem greater which is seen through it.

Pantaloons obtained on credit are considered breeches of trust.

It is a good horse that never stumbles.

### Apples for Cows.

Some persons withhold apples from cows, because the eating of them sometimes occasions a drying up of their milk. An immoderate gorging of fruit by half-starved animals will undoubtedly produce this result, but a rational and systematic feeding of them will not. One might as well deny oats and corn and water to horses, because when taken to excess they do injury. Sweet apples, regularly fed to milch cows, at the rate of about six quarts, morning and night, during the Fall and Winter, will promote their general health and increase the quantity and quality of their milk.

It would be good economy for farmers to graft over some of their old trees with such fruit, and to plant a portion of their new orchards with the same. The kinds wanted are, not the fine-grained and delicate sorts, such as are suitable for the table, but rather those which are rich, dry and firm. These do not bruise very much in gathering and storing, they keep better and are more nutritious than the nicer and more juicy varieties. The black Gilliflower, as an example, is excellent for feeding out late in Spring. Probably there are many native sorts throughout the country, which are abundant bearers, good keepers, and of the right quality. All that is wanted is a series of experiments to test them, and a report of the same through the papers and the pomological societies.

Did any of our readers ever reflect how easily and cheaply an annual crop of such apples can be raised? We have lately seen an estimate, carefully made, which allows ten bushels a tree for productive sorts, and amounting to 400 bushels per acre. Fifty dollars was allowed for the cost of land, and ten dollars for forty trees and the transplanting. The land was to be cultivated, and the crops from it preserved to pay the interest and the cost of cultivation until the trees came into bearing. Admitting the bearing orchard to cost \$80.00, and the tillage \$10.00, annually, the yearly crop cost \$15.60, at 7 per cent interest; or less than four cents a bushel. Isn't that cheap enough? Can any other crop be raised as easily and economically?

The following sorts are recommended by the author of the "Fruit Culturist," as among the best for stock feeding: The *High-Top* or *Summer Sweet*, for early feeding; the *Munson Sweeting*, the *Haskell Sweet*, *Pumpkin Sweet*, the *Sweet Pearmain*, the *Wing Sweeting* and the *Green Sweet*, for Fall and Winter.

That apples are excellent for fattening hogs, and as Fall and Winter feed for horses and other stock, we need not spend time in proving. Some even assert that for horses they are equal to oats. This we do not maintain. In feeding apples to cows, it is the safest way to cut or mash them, to prevent the possibility of choking the animals.

### Singular Effect of first Milkings.

Some have supposed that the first drawings of milk from animals newly calved, is poisonous, because of the strange effect produced on those who use it. We have heard of a Hibernian who nearly died of colic and inflammation of the bowels, caused by drinking freely of the first milking of a cow. Swine fed upon it often suffer great pain, and sometimes die in consequence.

Such milk, however, is not poisonous. It contains a substance which the doctors call *colostrum*, which acts as a cathartic. Such milk is adapted to the wants of the offspring, and is provided by nature to carry off "the viscid contents of the



intestinal canal." It is not confined to the brute creation.

The first milk of cows should not be thrown away. Half a pail full may be given to the newly-calved cow, and it will benefit her. The milk may also be thrown into the swill-barrel, and when mixed with other slops can be fed out to pigs.

For the American Agriculturist.

### Breeding in-and-in.—Cassius M. Clay's Reply to "A Cattle Breeder."

My November article in the Ohio Farmer, has aroused the "in-and-in's" like the bursting of a bomb-shell! Two articles in the Ohio Farmer, one in the *American Agriculturist* (page 10), and two more promised! I am likely to have my hands full! My very distinguished friend the Rev. Robert J. Breckinridge, for whose opinions on *Theology* I have the most profound respect, led off in this error some years ago, and was followed up by Geo. W. Johnson, Esq., of Scott Co., Ky., in a still more elaborate article. I have been often asked to reply to those articles by Kentucky breeders; but so general was the opposite belief and practice, that we all regarded the theory as the amiable eccentricity of those excellent gentlemen: and when the agricultural report of the Ohio Board of Agriculture renewed the theory, I deemed it only necessary to glance at the arguments on both sides, trusting to the axiomatic statement of philosophical facts to carry my point with reflecting men. "A Buck-eye" comes to my relief very promptly, claiming my theory as his own! and my special and worthy friend the secretary of the Board, only attempts a defence by widening the meaning of "in-and-in" breeding to the extent of breeding only specific or quasi specific breeds to each other and not "crossing!" My complimentary friend of New-York, therefore deserves a notice in passing, whilst the smoke is clearing off the home battle field!

1. *Argument from Analogy.*—In the human race the laws of "in-and-in breeding" are not questioned as I have laid them down. Near of kin in almost all nations have been forbidden to marry—not as is contended, for moral considerations simply, but principally on account of the physical ills which follow. If such laws are based on moral considerations, and to preserve the sanctity of the family relation even in thought, then should the brother be forbidden to marry the brother's wife, and not allowed to marry two or more sisters, &c. But such has not been the case: on the contrary, the every day observation of every one proves the physical evils of marrying near of kin. Georgia has just prohibited the intermarriage of first cousins, by very heavy penalties: and such a law had nearly passed this State Legislature last year: and such ought to be the law the world over. In-and-in breeding, then, in the human race, producing, idiocy, a loss of all the senses, weakness of constitution, diminution in size, disease, and impotence, imposes on the advocates of this theory to prove that the laws of other animals are not the same. It is not sufficient to say that man is governed by his mind and sentiments, as well as the appetites and instincts, since it is not a psychological but physical fact which is to be determined. I boldly assert without fear of successful refutation, that man, outside of mental and sentimental phenomena, is governed by the same physical laws as other animals.

2. *Experience.*—"A Cattle Breeder" attempts

to avoid the stunning force of the argument that the million who produce nothing memorable, are in-and-in breeders, by claiming that they do not select within the rules of his theory! Now the in-and-in theory logically rejects selection: for if breeding the sire to the offspring does the work of improvement, what right has he to select, which is our theory! But the truth is, your correspondent assumes that which is not the fact, viz., that there is generally an indiscriminate breeding without regard to the best in each man's possession. On the contrary, I venture the assertion, that among the rudest and most careless breeders, the best lamb, the best calf, the best colt, and the best pig, is reserved as a stock animal!

3. *Special Proof.*—Let us now examine our own practice: I give my experience for what it is worth, and I say I have all my life found eminent advantage in introducing blood not of near of kin into my live stock—chickens not excepted. I ask every reader, what is his experience! without fear of the answer. The Campbells of our county for many years have carried the largest hogs to the Cincinnati and Louisville markets, the largest swine markets in this country or the world; they have never been beaten. Now their theory and practice is, when they have generally 600 hogs, to go from home to select a breeder, and never to breed in-and-in! We have all been convinced of this theory as Short Horn breeders; so that we have repeatedly sent to England for new bloods and have even gone to Ohio for the same purpose!

4. *False Proof.*—RACE HORSES.—Your correspondent refers to the "Stud Book," as proof that in-and-in breeding is the thing—saying such was the practice "even down to a late day!" Well, I am glad these breeders are growing wiser than their sires for at "a late day," then, he admits they have changed their practice! I have not been familiar with the "Stud Book," and can not answer for the first part of the statement; but I do say, here in Kentucky, where we have produced race horses making the best time in the world, there is not a single breeder that would ever think of such a thing as in-and-in breeding!

5. *False Proof.*—Bakewell.—I deny that Bakewell's "rule was breeding in-and-in." W. C. Spooner, says that Bakewell kept his method of breeding "a profound secret," and "it died with him!" This same author, member of the Royal Council of Veterinary Surgeons in England, says: that it was known, however, that Bakewell, on the contrary did make a "wide selection of sheep" in the beginning. The Leicester being the principal stock, he is supposed to have used also the Warwickshire, the old Lincoln, the Teeswater, the Ryland, and the South Down." Now, here is a man on the ground—and one of the best English writers on sheep, who proves all the opposite of the in-and-in theory, so far as Bakewell is concerned. But so soon as Bakewell died, and close breeding was kept up by his successors, the sheep failed, as all impure bloods will do, when the original active methods of crossing fail! This, Spooner, who was a great admirer of the Dishley Sheep, admitted; for he says that: "weakness of constitution and sterility," and a "tendency to lessen in size" came to be defects of that breed of sheep which since Bakewell's time have been remedied "by crossing with the Cotswolds and Bampton Notts."

6. *Coleman on the Dishley's.*—Coleman in his *European agriculture*, Vol. 2, p. 336, says; in "a letter from an eminent Smithfield salesman," he finds these words: "It is necessary that I should qualify these observations by saying that no doubt Leicester sheep (Dishleys, or Bakewells,) have

been of immense service; and some of the best of them have been exceedingly good, having the tendency to fatten more quickly than others. But you will find my dislike of them shared by almost all practical men. They certainly have degenerated exceedingly, becoming small and light of flesh.

\*\*\*\* The average weight of those coming to market is about seventeen pounds per quarter. \*\*\*\* They have lost size, flesh and worth!" The italics are mine. Again Coleman says: "It is admitted that the Dishleys are not hardy." Now what does all this prove? 1. That Bakewell did not take a pair of Leicesters and breed in-and-in with them, and with good feed and shelter (all the requisites) make a celebrated flock! But that he first made "a wide selection" of the "improved" Leicesters from other flocks, like the Collings, and then used a very wide range of crosses running into not only varieties of long woolled sheep, but into distinct specific varieties, as the South Downs! 2. That by this process he made a flock of world-wide reputation. 3. That the Rules of the Bakewell Club kept up a close breeding, and in consequence, the breed and fame of the Dishleys ran down, and was only saved from utter ruin by crossing on the Cotswolds and Bampton Notts!

7. R. L. Allen's "Domestic Animals, N. Y., 1852," page 12; says: "Breeding in-and-in, or propagating from animals nearly allied, may be tolerated under certain circumstances, between those of the same generation as brother and sister." But "It is always better to avoid close relationship, by the selection of equally meritorious stock-getters of the same breed from other sources."

8. *Jonas Webb.*—South Downs.—Jonas Webb, of Babraham, Cambridgeshire, England, has pursued neither the practice of in-and-in breeding, nor crossing on sheep of specific differences. He began his herd by "a wide selection" of the best of the breed, and placed them in three distinct classes, and is now forming four or five; with a view to judicious avoidance of "close-breeding." The consequence is, his flock is world wide in its reputation; clear of all the defects of the Bakewell breed, and still advancing in reputation; because he has followed, and yet follows the true physiological laws. But why need I multiply authority, or argument? I know nothing of the Hereford Herd alluded to; but venture that if the truth was all known, "A Cattle Breeder" would be as wide of the mark there, as in the Bakewell case, and the "Stud Book!" With regard to the old Colling's tale, which has made fools of so many men, the ground is too old to be again traversed in this article, and in this day! I will only say again that C. Colling: 1. Made a wide selection of the best herds to start upon. 2. That from all the evidence, he never had a better breeder than Hubback, which he bought of another. 3. That he admitted himself that he never had a better cow than Lady Maynard. 4. That the breeding in-and-in, so far as it went, injured the stock. The "Dutchess tribe," which stock I am now breeding to, through a grandson of Grand Duke (10,264) is all the worse for the close breeding, which is now abandoned by Mr. Thorne, and others holding that stock. 5. That purity of blood is better than crosses on specific breeds. 6. The Galloway and Kyloe alloy is repudiated. 7. That the Collings, or at least Charles, was a prime Barnum and Humbug, and should never again be named by philosophical breeders, or logical essayists. Asking your pardon for so long trespassing upon your columns, in a controversy so manifestly one-sided, I await another broadside from the "Rest of mankind."

White Hall, Ky., Jan. 5, 1859. C. M. CLAY.



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL B. PARSONS, FLUSHING, L. I.

In our last volume, we published a regular series of articles and illustrations upon Farm Buildings, according to a general plan. In the present volume we propose to give a variety, including both large and costly structures as well as small, low priced ones. We have no definite plan, but shall select from a variety of sources. We give herewith, the ELEVATION, AND FLOOR PLANS of the dwelling of Samuel B. Parsons, of Flushing, L. I., with such specific descriptions as may serve for useful hints to others contemplating building. This house stands at the head of and facing Bowne Avenue, (just north of the "Fox Oak" pictured in December, Vol. 17, page 359). The site is an elevated one, overlooking Flushing Bay and most of Flushing Village, as well as the Palisades on the Hudson River, and the East River (i.e. western part of Long Island Sound). The view from the house North and West is a magnificent one, while East and South-east are the extensive green and hot-houses and the commercial gardens and Nurseries.

The style of the house is plain—rather too much so for one so large and expensive, to suit the general taste—but it is in keeping with the views of the Society of Friends, to which the proprietor belongs. We think it would appear better if the first floor were somewhat higher, to raise the whole building to a greater height, and give a more commanding appearance. As shown in the elevation and ground plan (fig. 2), it is surrounded on three sides (East, South, West) and on a part of the North side, with a wide (10 feet) piazza, the roof of which is supported by a row of plain, round, Doric columns.

The general color is a light drab. The structure is of wood, the outer covering being plank

or boards 1½ inches thick, tongued and grooved, the joints put together with white lead ground in oil. The walls are filled in with bricks, laid flat, an inch space being left between the bricks, and outside covering. Both main and piazza roofs are covered with tin. The blinds and also the close sliding shutters all open inside, and are thus accessible without going outside, or opening the windows. This plan is, we think, the better one generally, where dwellings are not exposed in crowded streets to missiles or other damage, and especially where the windows are protected from hail stones by piazza roofs or window caps.

A circular carriage path passes in front of the south entrance. From this is a side carriage way along side the east piazza, and passing under the covered porch, or *port-cochère* (carriage gate or way), the roof of which is supported by the two pillars shown on the extreme right of fig. 2. This is a special convenience which should be provided in connection with every house, where it can be afforded, as it enables persons to get into or out of a carriage under cover.

#### FIRST FLOOR OR GROUND PLAN.

Entering the Vestibule on the south, which is provided with outside and inside doors, we come to the main hall, 14 by 16 feet, which also answers for an occasional sitting room. On the left of the Vestibule is a closet for hanging overcoats, and other articles not in constant use, and on the right is a sort of business closet provided with a standing writing desk, etc.

The stairs which are of solid oak, are in an inner hall, shut off from the rest of the house, and lighted from above. The Library is connected with

the Parlor or Drawing-room, by sliding doors, and is also accessible from the stair hall. The library is finished with solid English oak, the book-cases being set into the walls. The bay window of the library, on the north, opens upon the prospect referred to above. The china pantry opens into the dining-room, and is connected with the butler's (waiter's) pantry, which is supplied with gas, and with pipes of hot and cold water, and a sink with waste-pipe or drain.

A hall or entry-way between the dining-room and kitchen opens out to the *porte-cochère* or carriage way. On one side of this hall is the store-room, opening both into the hall and kitchen, and also into the kitchen-dresser by a sliding window. The kitchen sinks, as well as the bathing rooms above (fig. 3), are supplied with both hot and cold water—the cold water coming from a tank which is kept filled from a spring on much lower ground, some 75 or 100 rods distant, by means of a windmill, and a water-ram (such as was described in our last volume, page 324).

Underneath the kitchen is a dairy room, and also a laundry and drying room, supplied with permanent wash-tubs, ironing range, etc. A cool closet in the ice-house is connected with the cellar by a passage way—the ice-house is an underground one, back of the east piazza. In the rear is a covered passage or hall leading to the water-closets—a continuous roof extending over the whole structure. The other features, the closets of which there is a good supply, the back stairs, etc., etc., are sufficiently indicated in fig. 2. The general impression from an examination of the diagram, is that too much space is devoted to halls—there is not available room enough for so large a building. We think the proprietor



would himself make a different arrangement, if he were planning the dwelling anew.

#### SECOND FLOOR.

This is shown in fig. 3—the darker position indicating the roof of the piazza which is but one story in height. A note-worthy feature, in the arrangement of the rooms on this floor, is the fact that they are all communicate so as to admit of thorough ventilation by means of doors, windows, and the stair hall which opens above into the cupola or observatory. At the north-east, in the rear of the stair hall, in the angle formed by the L, and main building, is a balcony always shaded until late in the afternoon. This is used as a sitting place in Summer.

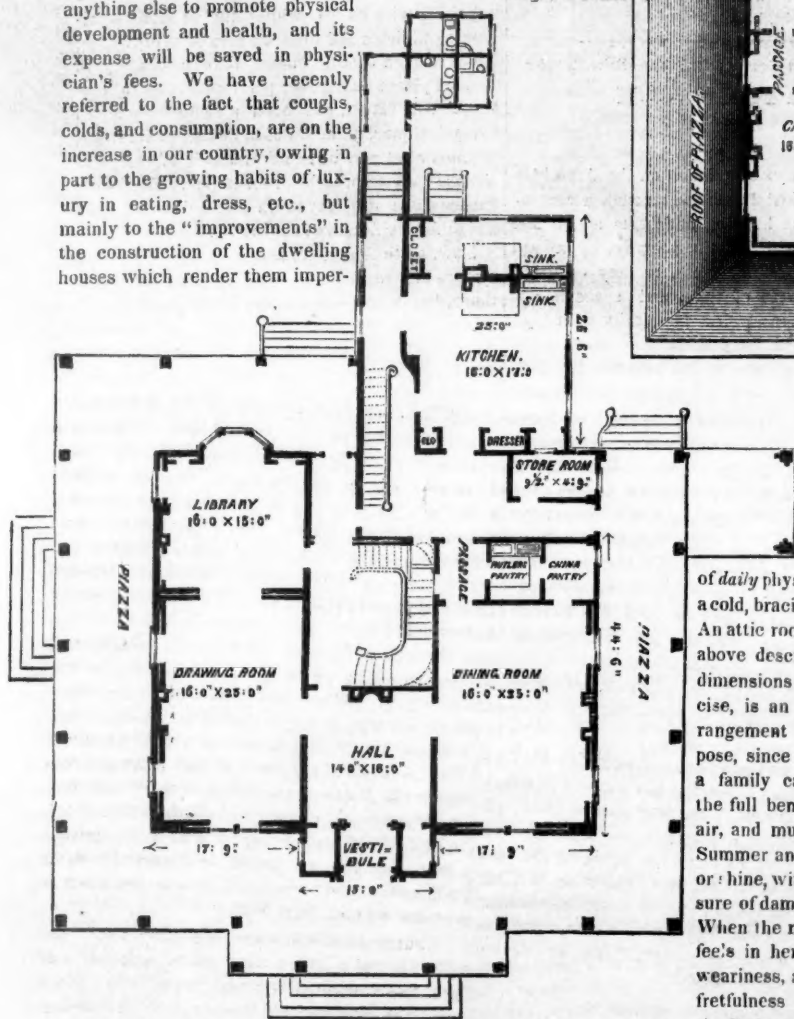
#### THIRD FLOOR.

In the third story there are four chambers, a hall, and a children's play room, 16 by 40 feet. This last is a very important thing and should always be provided for. An ample room, cool, and well aired, where children may romp and play in all weathers, and where they should be sent two or three hours daily, will do more than anything else to promote physical development and health, and its expense will be saved in physician's fees. We have recently referred to the fact that coughs, colds, and consumption, are on the increase in our country, owing in part to the growing habits of luxury in eating, dress, etc., but mainly to the "improvements" in the construction of the dwelling houses which render them imper-

Much is said of the unhealthfulness of stoves and hot-air furnaces. The fault lies not in the stoves or furnaces themselves, which supply an even uniform atmosphere, more healthful than the "one side hot—one side cold," grate and fire-place arrangements, but in the absence of that ventilation secured by the wide-throated chimneys which carried up a large amount of impure air, the place of which was supplied by fresh air coming in through various apertures and even down one portion of the chimney-flue itself. Let the best possible means be adopted for securing a moderately warm uniform atmosphere, with no cold currents, but let the fullest provisions be made for a frequent exchange of the entire air of an occupied room—day and night—for pure air; and let every member of the family have a large amount

ing, noon and afternoon recesses. We can conceive of no better attachment to any public or private school building than this—it should be everywhere patterned after.]

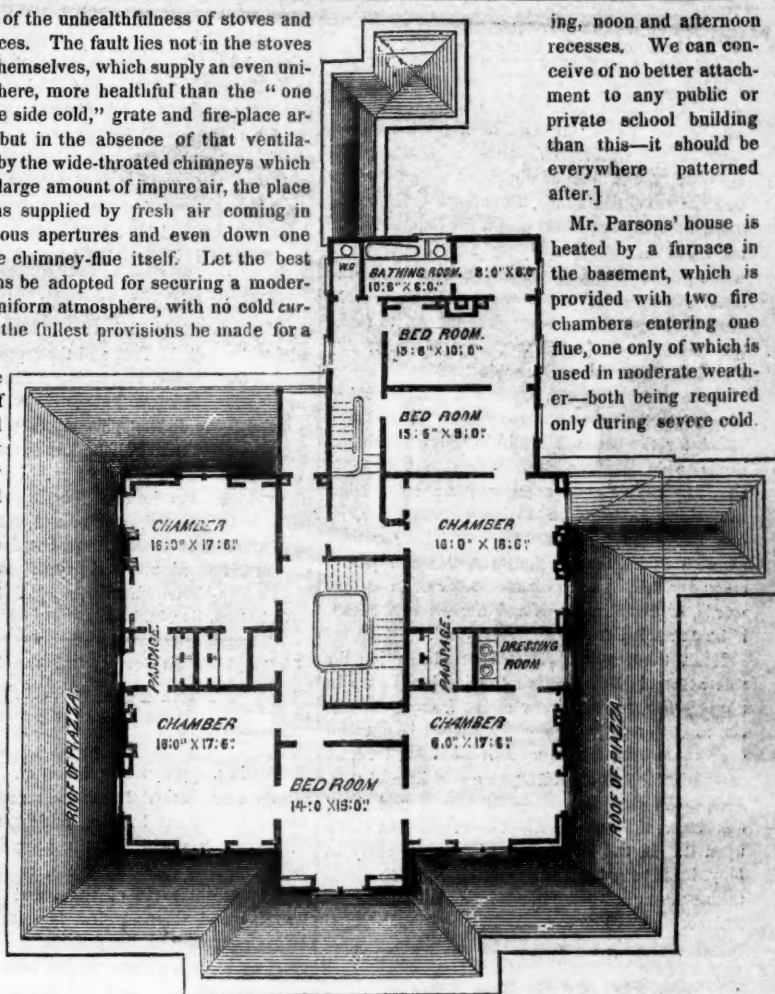
Mr. Parsons' house is heated by a furnace in the basement, which is provided with two fire chambers entering one flue, one only of which is used in moderate weather—both being required only during severe cold.



GROUND PLAN, OR FIRST FLOOR.

vious to the external pure air, and confine the constant occupants, the adult females, and children of both sexes, in a close, heated, impure atmosphere, which is weakening to the lungs, and debilitating to the whole muscular and nervous system. The "Appeal to the Sexton of the Meeting-house," published in December, (Vol. 17, page 372), ought to be framed and hung in every church, school-house, and dwelling in the land.

season in romping and frolic, and she will be surprised at the magic effect both upon herself and those under her care. The daily and frequent practice of this will work a wonderful change in that weak, puny child, that now appears to be a candidate for an early grave. [In the large public school building in Middletown city, Conn., the entire attic is thrown into one monster room where the girls play and exercise at the morn-



CHAMBER, OR SECOND FLOOR.

This is convenient and economical, and worthy of attention.

We can not describe particularly the grounds surrounding the house, which consist of some 17 acres, planted with a variety of trees, in belts and groups, including a large number of evergreens, together with shrubbery, etc. The finest addition, to our eye, is the plots of rhododendrons which retain their foliage throughout the year, and afford a magnificent bloom during early Summer.

THE EXPENSE of the above house we can not give, as the proprietor is absent in Europe, and we have had no opportunity for consultation—our description being made up from personal observation, and the builder's plans.

#### Ice-houses in Cellars.

In reply to a correspondent, on this subject, we would say that it is nothing new to construct ice-receptacles in cellars; though for our own use, we prefer one out of doors. All you need to do in the case proposed, is to choose a cool and dry corner of your cellar, use the cellar walls for two sides, and make the other two of some non-conducting material, filling in on all sides with tan or saw-dust. It will be well to choose a side of the cellar where you have, or can have a large window for unloading the ice directly into the house. Do not neglect drainage and ventilation, or your labor will be lost—and your ice.

The worthiest people are the most assailed by slander; as we usually find that to be the best fruit, which the birds have been pecking at.

### The Wood Pile.

Has the next season's supply of wood been gathered as we strongly advised in December last? You know that it is not economical to burn green wood. A cord of it often contains 1500 lbs. of water. Of course this water will not burn, and it must be got rid of somehow before the wood containing it can burn. It may be disposed of by seasoning the wood beforehand in the open air, or by applying fire to the wood while green. The first process costs nothing; the latter costs a good deal of wood and patience. In other words, it takes more green wood to make the same amount of heat than it does of dry wood, and causes much trouble besides.

No man deserves the name of a good provider, who neglects to lay up a good stock of seasoned wood for the use of his family. How much annoyance in kindling fires on cold mornings is saved by having good wood, and how much labor in cooking food and in warming apartments, no one knows who has not tried it. Let no man blame his wife for late and irregular and poorly cooked meals, or for a clouded brow or impatient words, or fretful children and a disorderly house, if he compels her to use green wood.

Hear, then, our final word of admonition for this season! Now, before the ice breaks up in the swamps, and the snow melts from the roads, see to it that a good supply of wood is cut and drawn into the back-yard. Arrived there, let it be sawed into convenient lengths and split, and then piled up so that the winds of March and April can blow through it, and the bright sun shine upon it. In the latter part of April or early in May, let it be got under cover. If this don't help answer the question, "How to make home happy," we should like to know it.

### An Apology for Tim Bunker.

LETTER FROM JAKE FRINK.

MR. EDITOR:

Square Bunker went by our house this mornin jest arter sunrise on his way to the deepo. He sed he hadn't a bit of time to write, but he'd like to have me tell you, that he had been called out o' town, suddenly on bizziness, and should'n't be back in sun weeks. He axed me to write in his place this time, and I deklare I never felt so kuris in my life—I han't got much ederkashun, and never had, and I could'nt help thinkin' the Square was krackin one of his dry jokes on me, when he put me up to sich a thing—guess he'd be more astonished than the next man, if you should take it into yer head to print this ere riting. But you jest du it, and I'll give you a dollar out of my own pocket, for the sake of gitting the start on the Square for oncet. He is a hard man to beet i kno, but Hookertown is a great country—and there is sum more people in it than you have heerd on. Them karrots, that Tim Bunker's alers runnin me on, I wan't so much to blame about—I'd like to have my sa on that subjeekt. Ye see, I knew mi man jest as well as the Square did, and a leetle better. I allers understood trade, better than farmin, and I knew i culd git the premium by a leetle kalkulashun. Now kalkulashun I hold to be the cheef eend of man, that which distinguishes him above all kattle-kind, and so i used it in the kase of the karrots and carried my pint.

Sum folks perhaps thinks, that all Square Bunker rites about is made up eout of his hed, kind o' novil fashun. I tell you it's a mistake. The hull on't is a rekord of fax, and pretty much as they happened, so that up heer in Hookertown

they look for the Square's letter in your paper, to know what has happened. That story about the hoss-pond is all true as preachin, and a great deel truer than sun on't, i guess. The bottom is all dry neow, and the lot is about the best one on the farm. That tile bridge was a kuris notion, and I must own beet on it. I might have thunk, and thunk, forever, and i should never have thunk that eout—but the watter rushes threw there, as if it had been shot eout of a kannon. I dew declare I bleeve he greesed the plank, it goes so slick.

I don't kno what the Square has gone off fur—but I guess its to bi kattle. Kattle have been mighty low all the Fall, and the Square has plenty of hay, and fodder, and makes a considerable bizziness of fatten kattle in the winter, tho' he han't sed any thing on that pint yit in the paper. Indeed he han't told half he kno's, and i spect he wont if he rites a dozen years. I guess hee'l git a new idee when he sees this in print. I never had a letter printed, and indeed, folks in general have never dun much for me, but Jake Frink is a man of his wurd, and will pay, if you'll put it in.

Yours furever, JACOB FRINK.

Hookertown, Dec. 30, 1858.

Written for the American Agriculturist—Prize Articles.

### Farm Fencing.....II.

#### HEDGES.

We do not propose to inflict on the American farmer a theoretical discussion on such a controverted subject as hedging our farms and fields. The writer has watched the progress of hedges in this country for forty years, as they occurred at various intervals of time, and space in our travels; and since our first familiarity with farm labors commenced, our reading and observations relating to their success in our own country have been constant and sharp. England has been held up to us from time immemorial for the beauty and security of its Hawthorn Hedges. The whole country is checkered with them. "Ditching and hedging" are English institutions; and the "Hawthorn," and its poetic associations have for many centuries been household words with its people. Coupled with the "hedge," also, are tales of poaching, the rabbit-warrens, the fox-burrows, and the haunts of all sorts of four legged vermin, and winged small birds—saying nothing of "game."

Let us examine somewhat into the English hedges as a thing of utility and protection to their fields, and crops. There are hedges in England, men say, centuries old. Growing along in their lines are grand old trees, "pollarded"—many of them, that is: their tops cut off from time to time to make fuel. They stand on banks of earth thrown out of adjoining ditches, in some cases many feet wide including ditch, and bank. They are barriers against all animals roaming at large, and to men, but are wonderful and prolific protectors and harbors of birds noxious to the farmer, and his crops. They occupy a deal of valuable cropping land, and pasturage. In the olden days of small farms, and numerous freeholds, they were multitudinous in number; but in later days of improved and extending farming, thousands of miles of them have been cut down and rooted out, their banks leveled, and ditches filled, for the purpose of enlarging the fields, and saving labor in cultivating the crops. Yet the main dividing lines of the farms and fields and enclosures from the highway, remain in hedge, although subjected to perpetual repairs, filling up, plashing, trimming and cultivating, at a very considerable expense.

Now, what is the climate of England? Moist

and cool, as general features. The thermometer—Fahrenheit—rarely rises to 80° in Summer, and scarcely ever falls below 20° above zero, in Winter; consequently, heavy frosts, or extreme drouths are rarely ever felt, and never prevail—at least, as we have them in America. As a rule, the ground is also always moist, and refreshed with frequent gentle rains. The banks supporting the hedges do not crumble with the frosts, and their usual moisture holds them in place, as laid up. The hawthorn does not blight nor mildew, as in America. It takes firm hold in its native earth, for it is indigenous to the soil, and grows everywhere, either with, or without cultivation. Taken altogether, then, the Hawthorn is a natural fencing plant in England, southern Scotland, and in Ireland, their immediate neighbor. Timber, either split into rails or paling, is too scarce and dear for fencing; and stone is, comparatively, but little used. Probably, therefore, hedges are the best, and most economical for farm fences in those countries.

With us, in America, the climate is far different. We have deep frosts in Winter, and excessive drouths in Summer. The Hawthorn does not thrive with us. It winter-kills in many localities, and blights and mildews almost everywhere.

It has been tried for more than a century in various places as a hedge plant, and after a few years' cultivation, has been abandoned—not in every instance, we admit; but among all its trials, we never yet saw or heard of a mile of good, continuous Hawthorn hedge, in America. Therefore, we put down the Hawthorn as an impracticable hedge for our farmers to cultivate.

Now, as to American hedges of any kind, as a system of farm fencing. Failing with the Hawthorn, the common American White, and Black-thorns have been repeatedly tried. We saw a few apparently successful thorn hedges many years ago, in the State of Delaware. But they were imperfect in growth, and many wide, unsightly gaps were visible, filled in with boards and posts, or rails, showing, evidently, that either the system, or the farmer himself was in fault. We have seen, also, in several other States, attempts at hedge enclosure, but never a perfect hedge to the extent of enclosing a hundred acres of ground. These "attempts" have been repeated for a century past; page after page has been enthusiastically written in their favor; a large amount of money and labor have been expended to establish them as enclosures—and still we have no hedges, to speak of. There must be a radical difficulty somewhere—either the hedges will not grow, or we do not know how to grow them. Yet, hedge growing Englishmen, at home, have tried them thoroughly here, and after a while have given them up, equally with our own native cultivators, and adopted, in common with them, walling, railing, or boarding in their farms and fields, as circumstances best determined.

Thus far, then, it has been practically settled that thorn hedging will not do for America. But since the great prairie regions of the Western States have been partially settled, and brought into cultivation, the subject of hedges has been actively canvassed in our papers and periodicals, and numerous attempts have been made to adopt those of some new material of American growth. The Buckthorn has been proposed, and canvassed. The Apple—wild crab, and that of the nurseries—has been recommended. The common Yellow Locust; the American three-thorned Acacia (*Gleditsia triacanthos*); the American Arbor Vitæ, the White Cedar; and, more extensively, the Osage Orange have been highly recommended, as locality, partiality, or probabilities of success have prevailed with their ad-



vocates. Of all these, however, the Osage Orange has decidedly been the choice, as the most promising in utility and ultimate success. The objections to the Yellow Locust, and three-thorned Acacia are, that they are *trees*, not shrubs, and besides, they throw out numerous suckers, far away from their trunks, and create a perpetual pest to cultivation. The Arbor Vitæ is also a tree, and although by its being an evergreen, it might afford protection to the fields, and crops, it becomes, in time, unmanageable, and too bulky for the purpose, of fencing, simply—a fault common to the other trees already named, even were they free from suckers. The Osage Orange, then, stands alone as the present popularly proposed hedge plant in our Northern, and Middle States. It is indigenous in the Mississippi latitudes of 32° to 38°, and in most localities within these, perfectly hardy. It is a beautiful, thrifty shrub of maximum size, rapid in growth, and if thickly planted, is impervious to the entrance of farm stock of any kind. It produces no suckers, and in its training and habits is entirely manageable. Thus far its characteristics are in its favor.

Within the last ten years so rapidly has it come into favor with the advocates of hedging that extensive nurseries of the Osage Orange have been sown and cultivated; thousands of miles of it have been planted on the Western prairies, and on old farms, once wooded, where fencing timber has become scarce; and professional hedgers have advertised, and contracted for planting it by the mile, embracing millions of plants, and extending many miles in distance. These experiments, however, have been too recent to form an accurate opinion of their future success. There is this drawback, however. They are, in any latitude above 37° north, liable to winter-kill. We have seen mile after mile of them in Southern and Central Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, with the past year's growth of four, five or six feet, killed to the ground. There was no fault in cultivation, for the land was well ridged, plowed, and hoed along the lines of hedge—want of hardihood, only, being the apparent difficulty. To such extent have a multitude of these young Osage hedges been successively winter-killed, that many who attempted them became discouraged, and abandoned them, after a few years trial, and resorted to other modes of enclosure. Yet, even further north, as high as latitude 42°, occasional lines of Osage hedges are seen, apparently promising, but, as yet, too recently planted to judge of their ultimate success. Occasional trees, single, and alone are planted with success. We have one in our own grounds near latitude 43° north, planted twenty years ago, eight inches in diameter near the ground, and fifteen feet high, which has suffered but occasional killing back in its young wood through the late severe Winters. Taken altogether, we can give no conclusive opinion of the value of the Osage Orange as a successful hedge plant. Years to come must determine the question. Yet, to say the least of it, there may be localities north of 37° where it may, and probably will succeed, and a grand desideratum will be established in our fencing economy, if it shall be found to be more generally successful.

Thus, the adoption of hedges as a permanent American farm fence is undecided; or, at all events, is wanting further trial than it has yet had, to base any immediate calculation on its adoption; and even should it succeed, the farm, and its fields must be temporarily fenced with rails, or boards for some years, while the hedges are growing—no trifling expense. But of this we need not speak, only incidentally. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof.

For ornamental enclosures in home grounds, in villages, or about country dwellings, and where the hedge is not relied on as a protection against animals roaming at large, various shrubs are used with decidedly agreeable effect. The Arbor Vitæ for many years answers an excellent purpose, with a deal of labor in trimming. The privet is a beautiful shrub—almost an evergreen—manageable, and easy to cultivate, and control. It is sometimes, in our severe latitude, liable to winter-kill, but not often. Some of the hardier roses, as the "Prairie Rose," in the Northern and Middle States, and the "Cherokee Rose" in the South, with an intermixture of the privet to hold them up, they being climbers, frequently make a beautiful hedge, with considerable strength of resistance. The Buckthorn, and crab-apple are also fine plants for the larger class of ornamental hedges—the latter, in its magnificent bloom, overpowering odor, and rich yellow, but nearly worthless fruit, is unique in its effect, while the other is uninteresting, and sombre in appearance.

After all, it is not impossible that in our broad American woods yet unpenetrated, some valuable hedge plant may be discovered, applicable to all our soils, and climates. Should such be the case, untold benefits may in the future be derived from its discovery; although we are free to say, that while the present changeable tenure of our landed system prevails in the sale and transfer of our farms from one owner to another, their sub-division, and extension, hedges should be permanently adopted for no other than roadside enclosures. We must become a more fixed, and stable people in our agricultural homes and habits before the full benefits of hedges, as a fencing material, can be fully appreciated and adopted. In our next article we shall give the most approved modes of planting, growing, and training the hedge.

#### Culture of Buckwheat.

Enjoying daily, as perhaps all our readers now are, the welcome dish of "hot cakes, piping hot," what more timely than a word about growing buckwheat? It was formerly called *Beech-wheat*, from the resemblance of the kernel to the beech-nut. It is supposed to be a native of Asia, and is now extensively used in China and other oriental countries and in Europe, for making bread and cakes and gruel. It is cultivated extensively in many parts of the United States, and in some sections is hardly less important than the wheat-crop. The average price per bushel is fifty cents. Considering the short time required for growing it—about seventy-five days—it is a very profitable crop.

The land on which it is to be grown, should be brought into fine tilth and be well manured. Bone-dust or plaster and ashes make an excellent dressing for it, and barn-yard manure is not lost upon it, if judiciously applied. The old notion that the poorest land is good enough for buckwheat, is now well nigh discarded. And the truth of another notion, that it is a very exhausting crop, is also doubted. One reason why it kills out weeds and grass is, that the land for growing it is plowed and harrowed in mid-summer, and so exposes the roots of every green thing to the scorching sun; and then the rapid growth of the grain overshadows and smothers every other thing that springs up. It is almost sure death to Canada thistles, if this crop is followed by oats and clover. The time of sowing varies with the season, from the middle of June to the middle of July, though in ordinary seasons, it is hazardous to sow later than the fourth of July. If sown

too early, it is liable to blast, if too late, the frost overtakes it. Half or three-quarters of a bushel of good seed is enough for an acre. The average yield is from twenty to thirty bushels. If cut before frost, the straw is very palatable to cattle, and especially to sheep. All things considered, buckwheat is one of the most remunerating crops a farmer can raise.

#### Mink and Muskrat Hunting.

"And what in the world, has hunting minks, and muskrats to do with farming?" say our sober readers. No matter. Ask the boys, and hear what they say about it. If they live where such "varmints" congregate, and don't brighten up their faces with the idea, why, then they are not such boys as—we used to be. That's all.

There are a great many farms near woods, and water courses, small ponds, and big lakes, where minks and muskrats live, and multiply, and do a deal of damage to the farmer. The minks kill the poultry. The muskrats play the deuce with the ditches, and embankments, and we have not yet found that either of them do half as much good, as they do mischief; while, on the other hand, mink skins are now worth a dollar and a half to two dollars or more a pair, and muskrats—just as much as you can get for them—perhaps a quarter of a dollar. The "furriers" tell us that fur caught in any month without an "r" in it, is worthless; and as April runs, in some parts of the country, into warm weather, when the creatures are breeding, March is the latest month to hunt them in, while February is still better. Now then is the time to stir about and catch them.

Minks frequently live in the woods, in Winter, not far from streams, if there be any in the vicinity, and their haunts are found by their tracks in the snow. They may be caught with any kind of small steel-traps, box-traps, or figure 4, which last ones, every boy knows how to make; and the trays are baited with a piece of fresh meat, or fish of almost any kind. Good steel-traps are, however, the best. So, set them towards night, where you know the minks and muskrats run. Secure them by a bit of cord to a peg in the ground, sapling, or old log, and leave them. Next morning, go to the traps. If you have caught the creature, you know well enough what to do with him. If not, why, try again, and hope for better luck next time.

But, there is great sport in mink hunting with a smart terrier dog—two are better—unless the minks get into a long hole where they can not be followed, the dogs are sure to have them, in short order. Our own terriers are famous in that line, and from being overrun with minks and weasels a few years ago, we now scarcely find one in a twelve-month. Our poultry are safe—from them, at least.

THE PIGEON-HAWK AND THE WOODCOCK.—E. Y. B., of Wallingford, Ct., relates the following incident which he witnessed when a boy, which was recalled by the illustrated article on the Sparrow-hawk, given in December Agriculturist, Vol. 17, p. 366. Returning one morning from visiting a trap set by him, a woodcock went whistling up a short distance before him, when almost at the same instant, a pigeon-hawk swooped down with unerring aim from a tree near by, and bore the woodcock to the ground. Not having a gun, Mr. B. thought he would be "in at the death," and secure the woodcock. Having waited long enough as he supposed, for the bird to be dead and picked, he walked up and the hawk retreated, leaving the woodcock, who, finding himself released, took to the woods, naked, leaving only feathers for the disappointed hunter.

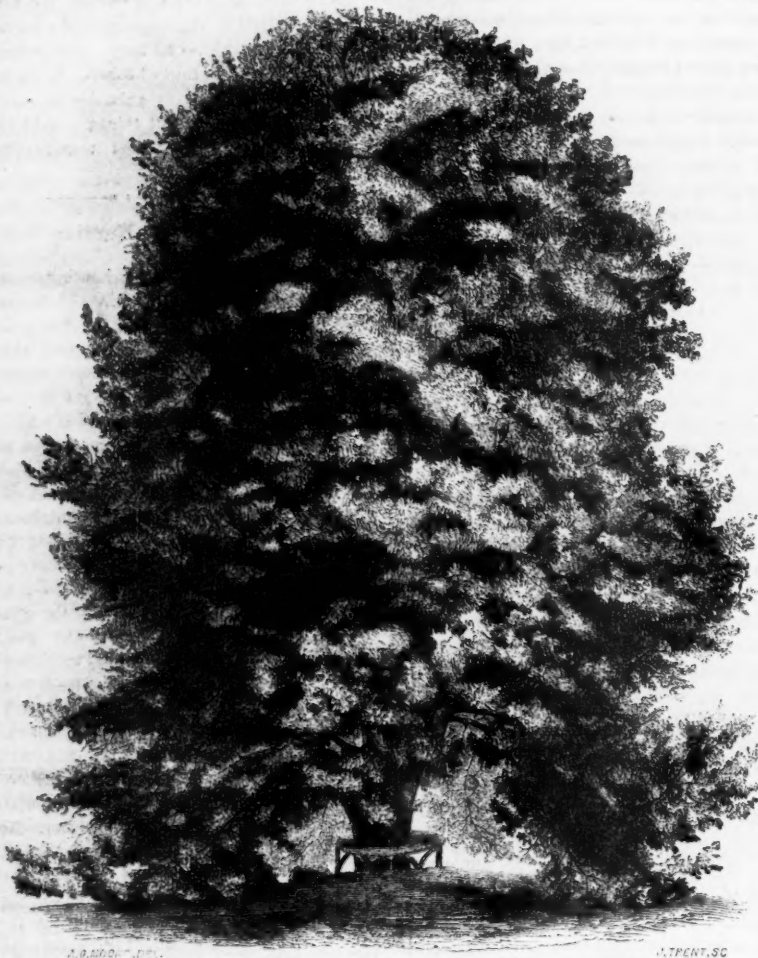


Fig. 1—EUROPEAN LINDEN, (*Tilia Europaea*)—Height 78 feet.

### Shade and Ornamental Trees.

February is already here. The last Winter month, and that the shortest one, is upon us. Spring will soon come, and with it the appropriate labors. Even now our more southern readers have either begun to plant out trees, or are getting ready to do so. The question, "What shade and ornamental trees shall we plant?" will be more frequently asked than ever before, and we would wish the number of inquirers could by any means be multiplied by thousands. A beautiful tree, planted near the dwelling or by the roadside, will in a brief period afford a world of pleasure to the proprietor and to a multitude of other beholders. There are very many native trees adapted to this purpose, with others of foreign origin, which can be obtained at the commonest nurseries and gardens. We have, in former pages, indicated and described many of these, and will from time to time introduce others. We have secured fine original illustrations\* of five valuable trees, which we will briefly describe.

Fig. 1, EUROPEAN LINDEN, or LIME TREE, (*Tilia Europaea*.) The engraving is a very accurate por-

\* A new and greatly improved edition of Downing's Landscape Gardening is in preparation, by the well-known H. W. Sargent, which will soon be published by A. O. Moore & Co. Many new and valuable illustrations are being got up for the work, among which will be found the five beautiful original engravings in this article. We admired them so much that we paid the publishers a large sum for permission to use them in advance of their regular publication. As a protection to the proprietors, it should be stated that they are copyrighted both for the book as well as in these pages, and we must, in this case, make an exception to our general rule of allowing articles and illustrations to be copied when due credit is given.—Ed

trait of a tree—probably the largest of the kind in the country—which is now growing on the estate of Wm. Denning, Esq., at *Presqu'ile*, a beautiful point jutting out into the Hudson River, some 60 miles above New-York city. This tree has been planted about 44 years, and is now 57 feet in height, its branches growing in a beautifully dense mass from the ground to the summit—the lower ones resting upon the smooth turf inclosing the space within, where an embowered seat invites our entrance. Some of our readers may inquire how this form of growth is secured? Whether it is peculiar to this kind of tree, or is the result of training? And further, whether this is the desirable form for our ornamental shade trees?

We will answer the last question first. That it is desirable in certain situations, no one who sees our engraving will question. For a lawn or a door yard, of suitable dimensions, there can be nothing more beautiful, or which would express so perfectly the idea of re-

fined rural comfort. Many an expensive house, bald and comfortless in spite of its expense, would, by the introduction of even one such tree into the stiffly planted or naked grounds, become an object of interest to its possessor, and to every passer by. Yet we by no means recommend that all, or even a large proportion of the trees on any one place should have this form. Indeed the circumstances which allow a tree to develop in this way, cannot be conveniently secured for a great number. It is the shape most desirable for a single tree planted upon the lawn, or in the neighborhood of the house.

The conditions necessary are these: Any round-headed spreading species, such as the Linden, Maple, Elm, etc., may be selected. It should be a vigorous young tree, which has not been crowded or deprived of its lower branches. If it has suffered from either of these causes, the top must be cut off for one-third or one-half of the height of the tree. This will give vigor to the lower limbs. The soil should be rich and trenched or dug 8 to 12 feet in circumference, and 4 feet deep, unless that depth should penetrate a retentive "hard pan," in which case 2½ or 3 feet will be better. No other tree should grow near it, and even weeds and high grass should never overhang or smother its lower leaves. No animal should be allowed to browse or rub the branches, and even in mowing or walking about the tree, disturb them as little as possible. Less care in each particular may produce, perhaps, a fine tree, but in proportion to the care will be its beauty. Aside from a slight heading back when young, or in case of injury, no trimming should be allowed. If the soil is not naturally rich, a top dressing of long manure each Autumn will be advantageous, forking it in the following Spring.

The beauty and value of the European Linden has long been appreciated in Europe, and it is being extensively planted in this country. As a symmetrical tree, adapted to quiet and beautiful effects, singly on the lawn, or as an avenue tree, it has no superior, and in the proximity of gar-



Fig. 2—LARGE-LEAVED MAGNOLIA, (*Magnolia macrophylla*)—Height 25 ft.



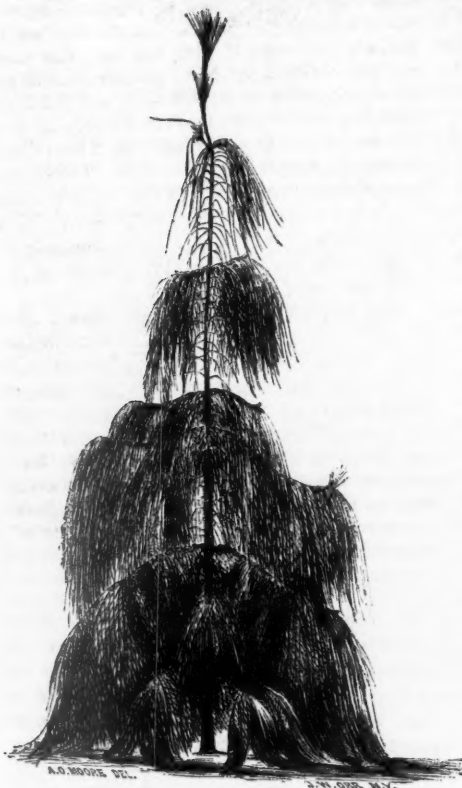


Fig. 3—FOUNTAIN PINE—OR WIDE-SPREADING MEXICAN PINE (*Pinus patula*)—Height about 5 feet.

dens or orchards, it is preferable to the elm or almost any other tree, as its roots do not expand much, or exhaust the soil. On the roadside and public walks, it is, in Europe, a most common tree, and we doubt whether any other has so many pleasant associations connected with it in the minds of the people. Around the dwellings of rich and poor it sheds the sweet fragrance of its blossoms, and almost every neighborhood has its renowned Old Linden, under whose spreading branches the young and the old, have convened for centuries past; and even kings, throughout successive generations, have delighted to honor the aged Linden by building inscribed pillars and monuments to support its huge branches. From its blossoms bees make that best of all honey, so valuable that it is used exclusively for medicinal purposes. Its wood, being soft, even, and white, is much used in the arts; its bark furnishes the *bast* (bass) of which the Russian matting is made, and even shoes and rude clothing are manufactured from it by the peasantry. Sugar is sometimes made from the sap—indeed, so many are the sources of value to the people that it is no wonder it is so loved and revered by them.

The American Linden (basswood) is also a valuable tree, but of coarse foliage and robust growth, and is inferior to the European variety in symmetry and grace.

Fig. 2 is the MAGNOLIA, of the variety called *Macrophylla*, or large-leaved. This is the portrait of a tree growing in that charming place "Laurel Hill Cemetery," near Philadelphia. It is about 39 feet high, and has been planted 20 years. In its native woods of Georgia and the Carolinas, it does not usually grow more than 50 or 60 feet in height. Its large glossy leaves clustering around the snow

white blossoms or scarlet fruit, make it a very desirable tree, although it is sometimes killed by our severe Winters in the latitude of New-York. In this Cemetery are several specimens in perfect thrift, and the visitor will find here a large collection of rare trees, evincing the care and good taste of its founder, Mr. John Jay Smith. The secret of the success of Mr. Smith and others, in raising this and similar semi-hardy trees, is probably owing to their planting them where they are surrounded and protected by other large trees of a more hardy character.

Fig. 3, is the WIDE SPREADING MEXICAN Pine (*Pinus patula*). This and the two succeeding evergreens are portraits of trees growing on the grounds of Mr. H. W. Sargent. They are but little known in this part of the country, and their value for general cultivation is being tested by Mr. S., with that disinterested enthusiasm which has prompted him to devote his ample means and leisure to the collection and cultivation of rare plants. "Wodenethe," his residence, has therefore become justly noted for its rare trees, and is, perhaps, for its size, the most perfectly kept and tastefully embellished place in this country.

This tree may not be entirely hardy in northern latitudes, yet it may be every where used as a Summer embellishment to the grounds, by keeping it in a tub or pot plunged in the earth and removed to a shelter in the Winter. For a further description we quote Mr. Sargent's words: "Of all the pines which I have ever seen, this is beyond measure the most graceful and charming—not only in its growth and habit, a representation of which is given in the annexed plate, but in the softness and



Fig. 4—YEW-LEAVED TORREYA, (*Torreya taxifolia*)—Height 10 ft.

color of its leaves. It resembles a beautiful, delicate green fountain of glass, and has a particular color like that of silk which catches the sun like a Kaleidoscope. The leaves resemble the silk of maize, (Indian corn), being similarly soft and

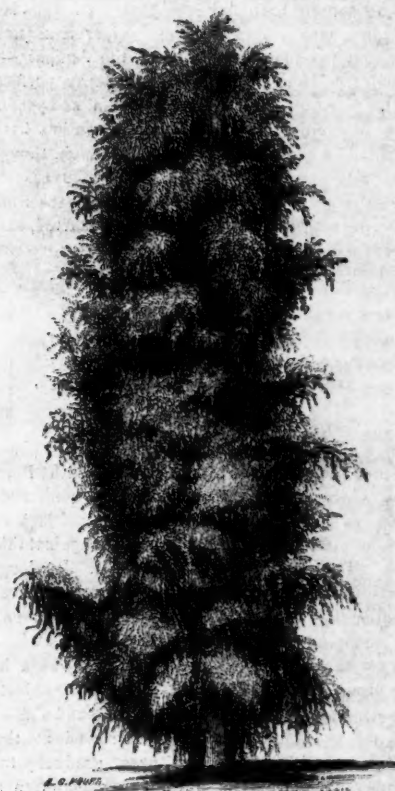


Fig. 5—WEeping JUNIPER, (*Juniperus pendula*)—Height 6 feet.

delicate, and not unlike it in color.

Although found in the colder regions of Mexico on the Real del Monte mountains, it has not the appearance of being hardy, and I have not yet attempted to acclimatize it, having but two plants which are quite beautiful enough for pot culture to satisfy anybody. It would unquestionably grow at the South. I have no reports about it and know but one other specimen in the country which is at "Wellerly" near Boston, grown like mine in a pot.

Fig. 4. The YEW LEAVED TORREYA—(*Torreya taxifolia*). This is one of the beautiful family of evergreens named in honor of our distinguished botanist Dr. Torrey, and we again quote from Mr. Sargent's description: "This is one of our greatest accessions in the middle States—being now perfectly hardy with us. It is a handsome pyramidal tree with numerous spreading branches—growing from 40 to 50 feet high—found in the middle and northern parts of Florida, where it is commonly known by the inhabitants as Stinking Cedar and Wild Nutmeg. My best specimen is about 10 feet high—very dense—showing nothing but foliage like a dense arbor vitae and remarkable, particularly in the Winter, for the star like appearance of the extreme tip of its young shoots. I have reports of this tree from Elizabethtown, N. J., Dobbs Ferry, Yorkville, Flushing, and Newport, in all of which places it succeeds well; considered hardy except in Newport where it is reported tender."

Fig. 5. The WEeping JUNIPER (*Juniperus pendula*), is a peculiarly beautiful little tree; its form and attitude being a mimicry of a large tree so that one may almost imagine he is looking at a tree of fifty feet if he would only exclude surrounding objects from the view, while indeed it

is little more than five feet high. Of this Mr. Sargent says: The Weeping Juniper is unquestionably the most attractive of the Junipers—a small tree 15 to 20 feet high, from Japan, perfectly hardy with us and the most graceful and pendulous of evergreens. My best specimen has been planted 10 years. It is nearly 6 feet high, though only a few inches when set out. It takes several years to get under way, and often dies back from the effects of the sun, but when once started, succeeds admirably.

### The White Pine.

*"Beneath the forest's skirt I rest,  
Whose branching Pines rise dark and high,  
And hear the breezes of the West  
Among the threaded foliage sigh."*

Few trees have stronger claims upon the planter than the native White, or Weymouth Pine. The objections often urged against coniferous trees, as a class, that they are stiff, and lack in ease of motion, can hardly be brought against this tree. There is no primness about it. Its long, silken tassels sway and float in the breeze almost as gracefully as the foliage of deciduous trees; and being an evergreen, it always retains whatever beauty it possesses. As commonly seen in the forest, this tree is a tall, picturesque object, towering above its fellows in majestic and almost solemn grandeur. Its trunk, furrowed at the base, rises with arrowy straitness, gradually tapering from the bottom, until it reaches often a height of 120 or 150 feet. When young, the bark is smooth, and greyish green, and the branches shoot out in regular whorls, one above the other, around the stem. As one whorl is formed every year, the age of the tree, when less than twenty years old, can be ascertained by counting the number of whorls. As the tree becomes old, the lower whorls, (if growing in a forest,) die out, and the upper branches shoot out irregularly, giving the tree a wild and picturesque expression. This is its way in its native state. But plant a good specimen in an open park or lawn, and it will throw out its lower branches in the most queenly manner over the sod, and retain them too; and its whole mass will present a great globe of waving foliage of silvery green.

This tree will thrive in light, poor soils, and by its annual deposit of leaves improve the land on which it grows. Yet it prefers a good, rich, and somewhat moist soil, and attains its highest excellence only in such situations. Its annual growth is a foot or more in height. Its geographical range is from New Jersey to the 47th degree of north latitude, indicating that it likes neither the extremes of heat nor cold. It is sometimes found as far south as North Carolina, but it is only seen there on the ridges of the Alleghanies.

As an ornamental tree, it belongs to large parks or extensive grounds, rather than the small lawns of ordinary houses. At least, it should be confined to the boundaries of such lawns, where it makes an excellent shelter from the Winter winds. Speaking of this tree, as it is sometimes seen in open situations, Wilson Flagg says, very happily: "At the very first sight of a full-grown and well-developed White Pine, every one is struck with its evident serviceability for all purposes of shade and shelter. It wears the evidence of these qualities in every part of its form and appearance: in its wide-spread and horizontal branches, in the density of its foliage, and its general amplitude. It is not impenetrable to the sunshine, but admits it only in small portions of light, which are constantly flickering with the easy sway of its foliage and branches. One perceives immediately that

there is no other tree under whose shade it would be more agreeable to recline on a hot Summer's day, or under whose protection one could obtain a greater amount of comfort in Winter."

It has been supposed by many that the Pine would not admit of pruning; that if lean, or straggling, or lop-sided, it must always remain so. But this is a mistake. If it has lost its lower branches, probably no skill can replace them. But a long, straggling branch may be safely taken off, if it is done in the Summer, just before the new growth has hardened. If it is desired to thicken up the foliage, prune in the Spring, by taking out the terminal buds. This will cause the inner buds to push, and so fill up vacant spaces.

As to the practical uses of the White Pine, our readers well know that it is indispensable in all kinds of naval and civil architecture. Its stately trunks furnish the best possible masts and spars for vessels, and when cut into planks and boards the wood is easily wrought into all kinds of carpentry and cabinet work. Its lightness, softness, beauty and durability combine to render it one of the most useful of all the trees of the forest.

### Young Woods.

We do not expect that those of our readers who are making new clearings in the forest on which to establish their future homes and farms, will pay particular attention to this article; but to those who dwell on prairies, and other sparsely timbered sections of the country, and wish to save, and grow their timber, a moderate attention to their young woods at this season of the year, is important. It will be recollected by those who read our papers of last year, that we gave them some good advice on this subject. We partially repeat it now; and as our own experience since has confirmed the suggestions then made to others, we now add it. From now till April is a capital time to thin out, and trim the young groves which have sprung up from the old "slashings," choppings, and other places which we seldom preserve as future wood-lands, and timber. Last year we took a piece of such young wood in hand, cut out the superfluous underbrush, pulled out the old decayed logs, tree-tops, and other rubbish, and made it clean; then thinned out, and trimmed the young saplings which we wanted to stand, and the past Summer's growth has been truly surprising.

Our young oaks, of all varieties which grow in our climate, and soil—and they are proverbially slow growers—have shot up two, three, and even four feet in height, where previously they had made but a few inches growth in a season; while the ashes, lindens, elms, maples, and others, have made a proportionally higher growth, for the reason that the wind, air, and sun have been let in among them, and they have had the soil all to themselves. The change in one year has been surprising. We drained off the long standing puddles of water standing round among them, which left the ground dry and warm—a wonderful promoter of tree-growth. The young grass has also sprung up under the trees, keeping the earth clean, and there it will stay until they get so full in the top as to overshadow, and kill it out, if thick enough. We know many a barren spot, which, a few years ago was a tangled mass of worthless underbrush, by the process of clearing out, and trimming, now worth many dollars an acre in its future promise of wood and timber, from a little well timed care and labor in thus training them. We repeat, now is the time to look after all such grounds.

### Cutting Grafts.

For the Northern and Middle States, the present is a good month for cutting scions. If it is intended to propagate currant bushes or gooseberries, take cuttings now before the sap starts, and bury them in sand in the cellar. And so, if grafts are wanted of the apple or pear or cherry, let them be got soon, and either buried in the garden in a dry place, or, what is better, be taken into the cellar and covered with damp sand or moss or saw-dust. What is needed is to keep them just damp enough to prevent their shriveling, and cold enough to prevent the buds starting before they are wanted in the Spring. In cutting scions, remember that only the wood of the last season's growth is of any use, and that it should be plump and healthy. After being gathered, tie each sort in a bundle by itself, and attach a label to it, so that no mistake shall occur through forgetfulness of names or mixture of sorts. Between this time and Spring, overhaul the bundles once or twice, to see that they are in a good state of preservation.

### Letter from Pod Auger, Esq.

DWARF APPLES—WHITE STRAWBERRIES, ETC

UP THE MOUNTAINS, TIOGA CO., PA.,  
Towards the end of 1886.

MR. EDITOR:—You being a horticultural and pomological editor, it follows, of course, that every one who has a rood of ground, if he have handed up his dollar in advance, is entitled to walk into you on the "pod auger" principle, to the amount of a full foolscap sheet, at least once a year, and not only give you the result of sundry experiments, but ask not less than sixty-five questions, to all of which you are expected to respond instantaneously, and with the utmost readiness, by letter (paying your own postage, of course,) or otherwise, and with all the particulars required in matters of fact. Don't every one of our Pod Auger family know that you have plenty of time to attend to the particular wants of each of your fifty thousand readers, and that it is your business to also make known to the "agricultural sovereigns," that P. A. Esq., is propagating a wonderful strawberry, which is a matter of the utmost moment to the public, though of no importance to the said P. A., say that he is anxious to share his prize with the public, by sending ten seeds to every one who will remit him two stamps—one for return postage, and one for profit, of course. Is it right for you to bluff him off in his patriotic desires by pointing to your "25 cents per line of space?" Never!

Well, Sir, I, Pod Auger, Esq., am duly enrolled on your books, and I have you now by the button-hole, so hear me for my cause and be not silent. Away up here in the mountains, many hundred feet above the tide level, the peach will not flourish; Catawba grapes are a myth, even the Isabella fails to ripen; there is not unfrequently frost in eleven out of the twelve months; and dwarf pear trees are almost to a certainty killed to the ground once in two or three years. So we are driven to turn our attention to the hardy grapes, and to that king of fruits, the apple. The latter, as a dwarf or pyramid, makes a beautiful garden ornament, but though I know of some promising collections that have been planted four or five years, I have yet seen only one variety that has succeeded, viz.: the "Wagener."

Now for my string of questions. Who will give us a terse, practical article on dwarf apple culture? Who has an orchard on the Doucain stock in successful bearing? If anybody, how long has it been planted? How treated? What



varieties succeed best, and come earliest into bearing? I see the American Pomological Society recommend the *Garden Royale* apple for garden culture. In what way—as a dwarf or standard? What are its peculiar merits? Is this the *Pomme royale* of the catalogues? According to my arithmetic, at eight feet apart an acre will contain 680 trees, or at ten feet apart, 436 trees. Now if a durable, fruitful, dwarf apple plantation can be secured in three or four years, it *must* pay. Can this be done? Will dwarf apples pay? That's the question. I call for light. Your articles last year on the grape and strawberry paid me more than three times the subscription price, and here is a chance for you or some of your correspondents to greatly increase my obligations.—[Somebody please do so. Ed.]

By the way, I see in Sept., Vol. 17, p. 276, a notice of a native *white* strawberry. You may be interested to learn that we have two distinct varieties of them here. (N. B.—No postage stamps hinted at in this.) One variety grows only in the woods or in the shade of fences near the woods; tall foot-stalk, slim foliage, with an appearance of varnish on the leaves; berry small, soft, with a flashy taste. The other kind flourishes in pastures and meadows only; foot-stalk short, leaves broad, dull green; berry large, sweet, of a cream white, with prominent yellow seeds. This was the largest wild berry sent to our village market the past season. This variety appears to be multiplying very rapidly. I am testing both varieties in my garden, and if they prove to be of special worth, I will send you some of the plants. Here endeth the first offence of this

PON AUGER.

### Frauds and Mistakes of Nurserymen.

Not a season passes, in which we do not hear complaints of trickery or gross errors committed by venders of trees. Says one man: "I ordered five Rebecca grapes of —, paying fancy prices for them, and after waiting two years for the little starvelings to show their first cluster, they turned out to be the second-rate Clinton grape." And another: "I ordered a lot of first-class cherry-trees, apples and pears, and ornamental trees from a distant nursery, and on receiving them by express, I found nearly half of them dried up, the limbs broken, the roots, in taking them up, had been chopped off within a few inches of the trunk, and altogether they were a sorry sight. When the cherries came into bearing, part of them proved to be only bitter little mazzards; the apples, many of them, were untrue to their names, and the ornamental trees were a long time in becoming ornamental." Such occurrences are so frequent, that some persons have come to regard nurserymen as a set of sharpers, and many are so afraid of imposition that they go to the trouble of raising their own seedlings and grafting and budding their own fruit.

Undoubtedly, there are dishonest nurserymen, as well as dishonest men in other callings. With them, indeed, there is a strong temptation to defraud, in that the gain is immediate, and the dishonesty cannot generally be detected under several years. *Tree-peddlers* are more likely to be ensnared by this temptation than established nurserymen whose success in business depends upon careful and faithful dealing, and is sure to follow it. There is not so much dishonesty among nurserymen as is sometimes supposed. What are often called frauds, are only mistakes, which they regret and in most cases will try to make good. These mistakes often occur in ways like these:

A young nurseryman wishing to stock his ground speedily with certain kinds of fruit, sends to an older establishment at a distance for specimen trees, and, taking for granted their correctness, begins forthwith to bud and engraft his seedlings from them. Next year, he sells the young trees by the thousand, and the same thing is repeated next year, on a larger scale. But in a few years he begins to receive letters from indignant customers all over the land, complaining of fraud and injustice: he has sent out vile and worthless trash, causing a loss of time and money and patience to his purchasers! Now where was the dishonesty? There was none: it was simply carelessness in not first *proving* the trees from which he propagated. Yet it was a highly *culpable* carelessness.

Some foreign nurserymen are less conscientious in their business than American dealers. Several years ago a gentleman in New-York, having been frequently imposed upon by a certain French nurseryman, determined to show up his character effectually; and so he invented a list of trees such as no mortal had ever heard of, and ordered them. Forthwith his order was filled under those very names! What Yankee nurseryman ever did the like of that? We understand that European dealers have lately found out that Americans are not all ignorant savages, and that it is worth their while to treat them so as to retain their large custom.

Some of the so-called "frauds and mistakes of nurserymen" should be charged over to the purchaser. Some men order trees without knowing much about them, and then are disappointed because they don't realize their expectations. Others suffer their young trees to be browsed off by cattle, or to be otherwise broken down, so that the stock grows up instead of the graft. Others, again, give their trees such poor soil and tillage that the result is almost a total failure.

Then, the tree-peddlers, before mentioned, must take a share of the blame. Many of them are honest and worthy men, but not all. These last, with an eye to a fine speculation, gather up the catalogues of respectable nurserymen, and a lot of highly colored pictures of fruits and flowers, and go about the country, representing themselves as the agents of these establishments, or even partners in the business, and by much fair speech and large promises effect great sales. But it generally turns out that the trees they furnish are only the refuse stock of various unknown nurseries, bought for a song and sold at full or even higher prices; and it often proves that they are untrue to their names, if not mere wildlings. Such peddlers seldom travel twice in the same track: it would be hardly safe for them to do so. Yet, the country is full of just such men; and it becomes prudent people to look out for them. We must be allowed to say here, that the persons who get most sadly imposed upon in this way are, generally, those who do not patronize well established nurseries near home. The pictures, the showy catalogues, the distant nursery and the brazen assurance of the peddler, are too much for them. The only safe way is to let these itinerants alone, unless they can give satisfactory evidence of honesty.

Meanwhile, it becomes nurserymen to exercise increasing care in all the details of their business, so that fewer mistakes shall occur. For every mistake is likely to make an enemy of the customer, and to injure the reputation of the nursery wherever it is known.

NOTE.—To the above, written by an associate editor, we will add, that a subscriber recently wrote a strong protest against our frequent on-

slaught against the peddlers. We have not his protest before us, but the substance of it was, that he had sold many good trees all over the country, to the great convenience of purchasers, who were thus saved the necessity of ordering of distant nurserymen, or going a long distance to select trees. He also stated that he had been the means of introducing fruit trees upon a great number of farms, where, but for his efforts, they would never have gone. There is much truth in what he says, so far as he is personally concerned, but his case is one of the few honorable exceptions. We could name not a few persons who would hardly dare to be seen in a neighborhood where they had sold trees a few years previously.—Ed.

### Starting Seeds Early.

Rev. Daniel Emerson, Summit Co., O., writes that he has been successful in giving garden seeds an early start, in the following manner: Having selected the quantity needed, each sort is tied by itself in a cloth, the name being plainly written on a slip of paper, and inclosed with the seed. The packages are then buried about two inches deep in the ground, for a week or two. When ready to plant, the kinds needed for planting are taken from the bags and used. They will be found to have swelled, perhaps sprouted, and ready to grow. If the ground should be quite dry, it is best to water the drills after dropping the seed, and then cover with dry earth. Mr. E. says that by this plan he has never failed to raise plants from every seed planted, though when put out they were often sprouted. If each seed is placed where it is wanted to grow, it will save the labor of thinning, though many prefer to thin their rows, leaving the most prominent plants to grow.

### To Preserve Scarlet Geraniums in Winter.

Mr. Downing once said, in the *Horticulturist*, that the various scarlet Geraniums could be kept through the Winter, by simply taking them up in the Fall and hanging them by the heels in a cellar. For persons who have no green-house, and yet wish these Geraniums for border plants in Summer, this would be an important fact, if it were a fact. The writer questions it. On the strength of Mr. D.'s recommendation, we, a year since, took in our geraniums from the garden, and treated them as he directed. In the Spring, not one of them was alive. Mr. D., seldom made such mistakes. Perhaps, if the top had been cut off pretty close, and the roots buried in sand, they would have lived. If any of our readers have any light on this subject, will they please let it shine.

Speaking of the preservation of roots in Winter, reminds us to say that the bulbs of the *Tiger Flower* are favorite morsels for mice, and should be kept in a box of sand where these pests can not reach them. Dahlias are their abhorrence, and Gladioli and Madeira vines please them not, but for these Mexican plants they have a great passion.

Franklin seized lightning, held it fast, and tamed it. Morse clothed it, taught it to read and write, and go on errands.

The man who is afraid to be called a coward has no apprehension of genuine courage.

He that goes borrowing, goes sorrowing.

### The Hollyhock.

Does any body fully appreciate this flower? The poetical and domestic associations connected with it are a part of its recommendations. It has long been cultivated in the gardens of our fathers. The poets have loved it and sung its praises. It was "Wordsworth's pet among the flowers; he had groups and rows of them in his garden, where he walked with great delight. And then, it is a robust flower, asking no tender nursing, and blooming profusely without any care.

So much for the old-fashioned, single sorts; but much more for the newer and double varieties. These have been so much improved of late by the English and French gardeners, that they are now advanced to the rank of "Florists' Flowers." Some amateurs even prefer them to the Dahlia. The old, bell-shaped blossoms have given place to "semi-spherical flowers, exceedingly double, with closely serried petals, and a flat, regular guarded leaf—the blossoms so thickly packed around the stem that green leaves can scarcely peep between them." So says Beck's Florist. Every color is represented, too, from fine white to nearly black. The flowers last, as all double flowers do, much longer than single ones.

The common and simplest way of propagating the hollyhock, is by division of the roots. But as this would not satisfy the yearly demand for the choice varieties, it is propagated extensively by cuttings. These are made in the Summer, as soon as the blossoming season is over. The cuttings, each two inches long and containing a single bud, are split in two, the pith taken out, and then they are placed in propagating pans of sandy soil about an inch and a half deep, and covered with a hand-glass. In a few weeks roots are formed, and the plants are potted and ready for sale. The hollyhock will live and grow almost anywhere, but to attain perfection, it should be planted in a deep, strong soil well manured and worked. Good treatment of any plant is always well repaid.

### Dahlia Culture.

#### AMATEUR'S TROUBLES.

To the Editor of the Amer. Agriculturist:

I must differ from your remarks in reply to the letter of "crest fallen" dahlia raiser in the Jan. Agriculturist, (p. 20). All dahlias of one color should be planted in deep rich loam, well mixed with decayed cow manure—the ground being dug to the depth of 15 inches. All those of two or more colors, striped or shaded, should be planted in soil not as rich, and without manure. Light loam (not "sand") is preferable. If the soil be very rich, the deepest color will predominate, and the bloom will not be of distinct colors and shades. Such has been my experience.

I do not believe in planting dahlias in the shade, or on the north side of houses or fences. They should be in the sun, and where the air can circulate freely under the branches. The soil over the roots should be loosened often, but without injuring the tubers. If the plants droop in a hot day, supply them liberally with soap suds

or manure water, using it in the evening. In a dry season water two or three times a week.

As soon as the blossoms begin to fade, cut them off, thereby obtaining an earlier and freer bloom. When the top has been killed by the frost, cover the root to prevent freezing, and let them stand and mature until there is danger of their being frozen in; then cut the stalk about 10 inches from the root, take up, label, and hang in a room where they will not freeze and not dry too fast. As soon as dry, pack them in dried sand and place them where they will not freeze. In the spring the tubers should be put into a hot bed or heating manure, and as soon as well started, cut out each sprout with the whole or part of a tuber attached, and plant as before stated.

Your "crest fallen" friend will be able to grow next year if he follows this course. E. D.

Milwaukee, Massachusetts, Jan. 1859.



### Chrysanthemums.

During this winter, so far, we have greatly enjoyed the flowers of these plants, which have survived the heavy frosts of Autumn, and even now challenge the snows to deprive them of their freshness, and we feel moved to speak of them to our readers. The old fashioned sorts, (the large-flowering, or Indian varieties,) are still desirable in a collection, although many cultivators now prefer the Pompones or Chinese, especially for house and pot culture. We present above a beautiful engraving of the *Vespa*, one of the finest of the

large flowering sorts. It is a free blooming pure white variety, scarcely known in this country. The sketch, of which the above is an engraving, was taken from a flower blooming in October last, in the "Temple Gardens" of London, (Eng.)

The Pompones were imported from China, some twelve years since, by Mr. Fortune, during his first visit to that country. They are called by the Chinese, the *Chusan Daisy*; and are said to be their favorite flower. Some one writes that the Chinaman bestows great pains upon their cultivation, and they reward his pains: "they seem to meet him half-way, and grow just as he pleases. They are in great request among the people, and are used in the decoration of court-yards, halls and temples. They are everybody's plant, blooming alike in the garden of the lowly Chinese cottager, and in that of the blue-buttoned Mandarin."

The flowers are about the size of an American quarter of a dollar, formed somewhat like the mountain daisy, double and compact, and of almost every color and shade. Alas! with perhaps one or two exceptions, they are without fragrance. Still, they nearly atone for this by the symmetry, perfection and brilliancy of their blossoms, and by the length of time they remain in bloom. Their foliage also, is dense, and pleasing to the eye. They are as hardy as the majority of herbaceous plants, often wintering out of doors unharmed, and at most needing only slight protection. They are best adapted, however, for blooming indoors, their period of flowering extending from October to January. The fact that they blossom at this season, when most plants are flowerless, enhances their value. We can not now recall any plant which blossoms so freely and so abundantly with so little care.

#### CULTURE.

About the middle of May, in this latitude, take cuttings from the old roots, and set them in the open border. If the soil has a plentiful admixture of sand, they will strike more freely. Keep the ground moist around them by a mulching of cut grass, and an occasional watering in dry weather. They will form roots and begin to grow in a few weeks. After they have grown two or three inches, pinch out the top, so as to cause the lower branches to break and to give the plants a broad base; for nothing looks worse in a chrysanthemum than a lean and naked stem. If they have grown three or four inches more, pinch again; but do not

pursue this operation after August. After that time, they should be allowed to form their flower-buds. About July, commence potting them, using a good loam mixed with one-third rotten dung. If you have time and patience to give them the best possible culture, begin with very small pots and shift them several times until the first of September, when they should receive their final shift in quart pots, or a size larger. If you have not patience, defer potting until August, and then give them quart pots at once.

Formerly, it was recommended to strike the cuttings and to grow the plants during Summer,



in a shaded aspect. But experience has shown that if we want strong, bushy plants, with foliage to the rims of the pots, and covered with blossom-buds, we must give them the opposite treatment. It is often recommended to keep the pots standing on boards during the Summer, and to keep them moist by frequent waterings. But we find it to work well and to save much trouble in watering, to plunge the pots in the ground, letting each pot rest on coal ashes so as to keep away worms from the roots.

After the middle of September, they should be taken into the house, or removed to some warm and sheltered spot, safe from frost. If they can be kept out until October, it will be all the better. If you want very fine foliage and flowers, give the plants a weekly application of manure-water, beginning in August or first of September, and continue until the blooming period is passed. Of course, watering with clear water also must not be forgotten. These plants are great toppers, and can't get along without frequent and copious draughts. After they have done flowering—which with most varieties will be about New Year's—they may be set under the staging of the greenhouse, or carried into the cellar, to remain dormant until cuttings are wanted in the Spring.

Some varieties of the chrysanthemum bloom so early that they can be flowered out of doors, by the following management: When the plants have become well established, bring them to the south side of a wall or house, and set them near it. Instead of pinching off the tops, let them grow, and train them up on the side of the wall. When frosty nights come, cover them with old mats or with hot-bed sash, and they will flower throughout October and the first of November, in mild seasons. Among the early bloomers, the following are good sorts: *Hendersonii*, yellow; *Andromeda*, rose colored; *Orion*, canary yellow; *Autumn*, bronzy buff, (a great bloomer); *Helena*, deep rosy purple; *Belle d'Aout*, rose colored; *Surprise*, white, tipped with blush.

Of those which flower later, and are proper house-plants, the variety is so great, (numbering several hundred,) that we can not attempt to give a catalogue.

## IN DOOR WORK.

### Coffee Adulterations and Substitutes—Chicory—Cocoa—Chocolate.

[Continued from page 22.]

We were not a little amused a few months since at what we saw in front of an establishment in this city, the sign-board of which reads: "Pure ground coffee supplied to the Trade and to Families." Workmen were busy in removing from a loaded cart what appeared to be the usual coffee sacks filled, one would suppose—when going into such an establishment—with pure old *Mocha* or *Java*. But just as we were passing, one of the coffee sacks burst open, and out poured a quantity of peas upon the sidewalk. But this is not an exceptional case. Let any one take a common magnifying glass and examine the "pure ground coffee" generally sold in the country, and he will be surprised, perhaps, to find that not half of the material sold is the genuine coffee. We doubt not that it would be better on the whole if the entire mass were pure peas, and nothing else. The material would doubtless be quite as healthful—the fraud suffered is in paying the price of coffee, for the vastly cheaper article of peas, the latter being worth less than two cents a pound, since a bushel weighing 60 lbs. is seldom worth in the market as much as \$1.20. With our views

of the effects of coffee upon the system, we can not find fault with, but rather commend the custom in many families of making their "warm drink" for breakfast from burned crusts, or peas roasted and ground at home. We of course have reference to health and economy—not to a cultivated taste for genuine coffee.

Acorns, chestnuts, and various roots, roasted and ground, are common adulterations. Chestnuts make a not unpleasant beverage, after one



Fig. 1—CHICORY PLANT—(*Cichorium intybus*.)

is a little accustomed to it. Dandelion roots are considerably used, and in certain conditions of the system are not without a beneficial medicinal effect; but the efforts made by interested parties, through newspaper advertisements and "notices," to make people believe in, and purchase "Dandelion root coffee" for habitual use, are little short of humbug. If the dandelion root is thoroughly cooked, it is little better than burned peas, or charcoal even, while if not thus cooked it possesses a powerful alterative effect which is deleterious except when taken as a specific medicine for a particular ailment.

Chicory, called also wild Endive, Succory, etc., is one of the most common coffee adulterations abroad, and is coming more and more into use here. The general form of the plant is shown in fig. 2. The stalk grows three to four feet high, and bears large pale-blue flowers. When cultivated, the large parsnip-like tap-root extends down 1½ to 2 feet in favorable soils. It grows in most temperate and warm climates, and is cultivated most largely, perhaps, in France, Belgium, and in Prussia and other parts of Germany.

The root is dug before the plant shoots into flower, and washed, cut into slices, dried and roasted to a chocolate color. In roasting, one pound of lard is added to from 40 to 60 lbs. of the root. It is then ground with coffee, and can not be readily distinguished from it by the unpracticed eye. To detect its presence in coffee, however, it is only necessary to put the mixture in cold water. Chicory gives a colored infusion in the cold water, while coffee does not impart a color until heated.

Chicory gives a bitter taste to the coffee, and it thus answers a double purpose as an adulteration. A smaller quantity is required to give a deep color, and strong taste, and on this account is economical to the consumer; while its comparative cheapness enables the dealer, who sells it for or with coffee, to make a great profit.

But the adulteration is highly objectionable for two reasons. First.—Though when taken in small quantities chicory is not very deleterious, and its bitter principle may even be beneficial as a tonic if used temporarily, yet its prolonged free use produces cramp in the stomach, heartburn, loss of appetite, acidity, constipation or diarrhea, weakness of the limbs, tremblings and sleeplessness,

cloudiness of the senses, etc., etc. Second.—Chicory itself is seldom pure. The dealer mixes with it Venetian red to give it a coffee color; and the Venetian red manufacturer mixes with his article more or less of brick-dust, colored earth, etc. Yet with all these objections there are probably twenty-five million pounds of dried chicory root consumed annually in England and France alone. We have no means of ascertaining the amount brought to this country. It is not yet cultivated here to any extent, and we hope will not be. We may add that those accustomed to use chicory infusions soon become chicory-toppers. STRUMPF mentions a class of women in Germany, who make chicory a prominent article of their diet. He calls them "*chicorien-kaffe-schwelgerinnen*" (chicory-coffee-toppers).

#### THE COCOAS.

These are preparations of oily seeds, usually, though they are often largely mixed with earth-nuts, such as the underground pea (*arachis hypogea*), earth-chestnuts or earth-almonds (*chusacyperus esculentus*), etc. Cocoa, proper, (*theobroma cacao*) is a species of bean, growing upon a tree, found wild and also cultivated extensively in Mexico, and other parts of Central America, in South America, in the West Indies, in Spain, France, Italy, etc.

Fig. 2 shows the general form of the cocoa tree, growing 12 to 18 feet in height; and also the leaf, flower, and fruit—these are largely magnified as compared with the engraving of the tree. The fruit grows directly from the stem and principal branches. It is in the form of a thick cucumber,

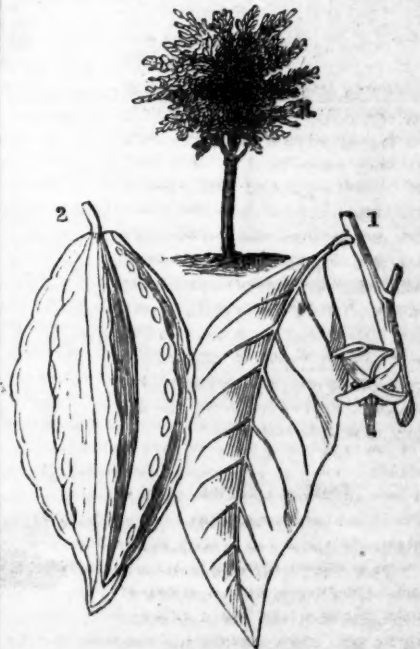


Fig. 2—Cocoa or CHOCOLATE, (*Theobroma cacao*)—Tree—Magnified Leaf and Flower (1), and Fruit Pod (2).

or small oblong melon four to five inches in length, like (2) in fig. 2. This pod contains from ten to thirty beans or seeds embedded in rows, in a pulp or spongy substance like that of a watermelon. These seeds are taken out when ripe, cleaned and dried, and are then ready for market.

The seeds are subsequently prepared in several ways. 1. The beans are freed from the surrounding husks, and broken or ground into coarse fragments. These are sold like coffee, and afterwards treated and prepared for the table in a similar manner. 2. The bean including the husk (which forms about one-tenth of its weight) is roasted and made into a paste by beating in a

mortar or grinding between hot rollers. This paste is then mixed with various ingredients, such as starch, sugar, etc., and often much adulterated. It is made into cakes and sold as cocoa, rock cocoa, or soluble cocoa. 3. The hulled beans are ground into a paste by means of hot rollers which partially roast them at the same time; sugar, and various kinds of seasoning such as vanilla, cinnamon, cloves, etc., are added. This forms the well-known chocolate. Its value, taste, and flavor depend upon the skill or taste, or honesty of the particular manufacturer. The name *chocolat* is derived from the Mexican name of the plant "*Chocollatl*." It is said to have been used by the Mexicans from time immemorial. The Spaniards found it in common use so long ago as A. D. 1520, and brought it thence to Europe. Linnæus was so exceedingly fond of the beverage prepared from the cocoa that in naming the plant he called it *Theobroma*, or Food of the Gods, (from *Theos*, god, and *broma*, food).

Chocolate, prepared as above, is made up into sweet cakes and eaten as a nutritious solid food. It is also scraped into powder and dissolved in water forming a thick nutritious beverage or soup. The husks of the beans are also used alone in preparing what is called cocoa-tea. They can usually be bought separately. They are more frequently mixed in large proportions with inferior cocoa beans, and sold cheaply as cocoa, or chocolate, to the poorer classes, especially in Europe.

Cocoa, and its preparations, chocolate, etc., are somewhat stimulant, like tea and coffee, and produce similar effects upon the system, though in a much less degree. It is far more nutritious, containing a large amount of oil, as well as a considerable proportion of gluten, starch, gum, etc., as will be seen by the following table which gives the composition of 100 parts of the unroasted cocoa bean when deprived of its husk.

Oil (cocoa butter).....	56 parts.
Gluten.....	17 "
Starch, gum, etc.....	23 "
Water.....	3 "

It will be interesting to compare the composition of the cocoa bean with the solid portion of milk, after the water is evaporated from both—100 parts of the dry substances being taken.

Cocoa-bean.	Dried milk.
Oil (or butter).....	55
Gluten (caseine in milk).....	24
Sugar, starch, etc.....	25
Ashes or mineral matter..	37
	4

According to this table the solid nutriment in one pound of cocoa is about equal to that in 7 lbs. of milk, since only about one-seventh part of milk is solid matter, the rest being water. Cocoa differs from milk in having more oil, and less gluten, sugar, and starch. The amount of oil renders it harder to digest than milk, beef-tea, and other similar beverages, and it does not agree with some persons, but when ground with sugar, starch, etc., as in chocolate, it is usually a very good diet, especially for invalids, since it combines nourishment with moderate tonic and exhilarating properties.

### A Healthy Article of Food.

We do not intend making our paper a journal of dietetics; yet we mean to recommend healthy food, if for no better reason, as a means of making better farmers. Oaten cakes and puddings and gruel have been sufficiently used in our household, of late, to convince us that this grain is very nutritious and healthful. The chemists tell us that the pure meal contains more material for making bone and muscle and blood, than any other

vegetable substance. In England, a process has been invented for bolting the meal so as to make it nearly as white as wheat flour. If this new mode comes into general use, it will do much toward recommending the meal to those who have prejudices against color!

The author of *Rasselas*, being once asked for a definition of the word "oats," replied, (with his usual sarcasm when referring to Scotland,)—"It is a grain which horses are fed on in England, and men in Scotland!" A Scotchman present replied quickly: "And where will you find such horses and such men?"

For the American Agriculturist.

### Suggestions on House Furniture, etc.

BY ANNA HOPE.

Carpets—Sofas—Chairs—Wall Paper—Window Curtains.

The appearance of a room is much affected by the carpet, and it is astonishing that while it is so easy to make a pretty one, so many that are ugly should be manufactured. For small rooms carpets with small figures should be selected. Large patterns diminish the apparent size of a room, as large plaids on a small woman make her look still more diminutive. Good colors should be chosen—not dull reds and faded greens, which always have an air of cheapness and meanness, but clear, bright colors, such as please and refresh the eye. By bright I do not mean flashy, but, if I may be allowed the expression, I mean a healthy color—one that has come from a good stock and enjoyed the pure air and never been paled and weakened in tenant houses. Crimson, (not red) green, and wood color, are always durable, and they form a harmonious contrast. Crimson, as the prevailing color, gives a warm, cheerful aspect, and it lights-up well in the evening. Green is also cheerful and pleasing. It is Nature's own color, and for rooms in Summer, nothing has an influence more cool and refreshing. I like it at all times. Wood color is unassuming and never offends the eye.

Very small patterns are suitable only for chambers. The breadths of carpets are always cut in the middle of a figure, consequently small figured carpets are more economical than large, unless it so happens that the room is of such a size that there will be no waste.

There should always be a regard to harmony of color in furnishing a room. This should be procured not only in the carpet and paper, but if possible, in every article of furniture. If green, crimson, and wood-color is the style of the carpet, green, crimson, or wood-color may be selected for curtains and the covering of furniture. Crimson curtains give a warm, comfortable look to a winter parlor, while in Summer they would impart a most uncomfortable and heated appearance. I can never forget the effect of a red and black French print worn by a young lady at a watering place, when those dresses were so fashionable for a winter morning. She came out in hers during the dog days and it required all the power of the cooling sea-breezes not to be, in imagination, scorched by it.

The great merit of hair cloth furniture, aside from its economy, is that it looks as well with one carpet as another, but it is too sombre to be chosen as a matter of taste. The gloomiest parlor I ever entered was furnished with a very dark crimson or maroon carpet, and the sofas and chairs were all of rosewood and hair-cloth. If it had been draped for a funeral it could scarcely have been more cheerless. I should grow melancholy in such a room in spite of myself.

A sofa covered with hair-cloth can be enlivened by bright cushions, or by an Afghan, or African blanket thrown over the back. These Afghans are twist of the double embroidery wool in stripes of different colors, and are designed to be thrown over a person reclining upon the sofa.

"Reps" is now much used for furniture. Its first cost is less than hair-cloth, but it does not wear so well. It has, however, the advantage of color.

If furniture chintz is used its colors must be in agreement with the carpet. Never select that which has great, glowing flowers, or gaudy birds, but such as is simple in its style, and remember the same hint when buying window-shades. A plain buff, or white, for these shades, is never disagreeable, and never out of taste.

For papering walls some neutral tint is always preferable to a bright colored paper, especially if pictures are to be hung upon it. The paper itself does much toward furnishing a room and relieves it of the bareness which a plain white wall always presents. The quality of the paper should depend somewhat upon the size and dignity of the room. A too expensive paper is scarcely better than that which is too poor. The figure of a wall paper should not be too marked. I have seen the picture of a railroad train driving at full speed, repeated hundreds of times on the paper of a small dining-room. If I eat in that room, I should be tempted to disobey all physiological law, and eat at railroad speed, and should listen anxiously for the ringing of the bell and the "all aboard" of the conductor.

Curtain-cords and picture-cords should be in harmony with the general spirit of the room. So should table covers, if they are used.

Rocking-chairs are not the fashion in parlors for the very good reason that the rockers are always in the way, and are liable to injure other furniture and the base-board, to say nothing of unfortunate ankles. Arm-chairs of various styles have taken their place. It is always well to have a few low chairs in the parlor for the accommodation of "women and children."

### A Batch of Recipes.

For convenience of reference we throw together here a large number of recipes prepared or contributed specially for the *Agriculturist*. We can only vouch for those signed *Ed.*—the others being furnished by subscribers personally unknown.

#### Pie Cakes.

The best mode of cooking rice, that is to our taste, and an excellent breakfast dish or dinner dessert, is the following: Boil the rice soft, and while warm make it into flattened balls, say an inch thick and 3 inches in diameter. When wanted for use dip the balls in beaten egg and cook upon a greased griddle the same as buckwheat flat-jacks. The thin film of egg on the surface prevents the absorption of grease. The cakes thus prepared and eaten with butter or sauce of any kind liked, are very far from being "bad to take."

Ed.

#### Potato Bread.

"Jeanne," of Erie Co., N. Y., writes: "We were glad to find in a former volume of the *Agriculturist*, directions for 'potato bread.' We have long been in the habit of using a few potatoes in bread, and think them an excellent addition, especially if the flour be dark or of inferior quality. For ordinary use we think our recipe better than the one given. For five loaves of bread we se-



lect twelve nice white potatoes, and when cooking supper, boil them without breaking the skins if possible; then pour off the water, peel and mash very fine. Put with them a pint of cold water and stir in flour enough to make the whole a thick bottom. To this only lukewarm—avoid scalding it—add a teacupful of domestic yeast, or less if brewer's yeast be used. If kept warm over night it will be all in a foam in the morning, ready to pour or sift through a colander. The sifting is facilitated by pouring in a quart or so of warm water while the colander is kept in motion with the other hand. Then stir and raise in a 'sponge' as in ordinary preparation of bread. It rises both in the sponge and in the loaf, much quicker than common yeast. This is a great improvement for biscuit, as it does not require half the 'shortening.'—[REMARK—Potatoes boiled and mashed fine so as to pass through a sieve or colander is without doubt a valuable addition to flour for both bread and pastry. The starchy, brittle character of the potatoes adds to the tenderness as well as the sweetness of bread, and where potatoes are not as costly as flour, the addition is an economical one. The above mode may be adopted; or the sifted potatoes may be added directly to the flour, and the whole treated in the ordinary mode. Try it you who have not.—Ed.]

#### Mock Apple Pie.

In this as in many sections of the country, apples are from their scarcity a luxury little indulged in this Winter. Some were fortunate enough to have dried fruit left over, and dried apple pies properly prepared are palatable. In absence of these, however, the following answers pretty well as we know: Take stale pieces of bread, such as are usually saved for puddings, and crumble them fine. Add to one cup of these crumbs one pint of warm water, one teaspoonful tartaric acid, and sugar and spice according to taste. Bake precisely as you would an apple pie.—Ed.

#### Apple Fritters.

This is a favorite dish with many, and often preferred to dumplings. We like them prepared thus: Make a batter, not very stiff, with 1 quart milk, 3 eggs, and flour to bring it to a right consistence. Pare and core a dozen large apples, and chop them to about the size of small peas, and mix them well in the batter. Fry them in lard as you would dough nuts. For trimmings we like powdered white sugar best, though good molasses answers very well. They are good with either.—Ed.

#### Muffins.

These deserve "extensive circulation." We have the recipe as a special favor from a lady friend, at whose table we have enjoyed some capital specimens, made as follows: To 1 quart of milk, add 2 eggs well beaten, a lump of butter half the size of an egg, and flour enough to make a stiff batter. Stir in half a pint of yeast. Let them stand until perfectly light, and then bake on a griddle, in tin rings made for the purpose. These are merely strips of tin three-quarters of an inch wide, made into rings from 2½ to 3 inches in diameter, without bottom—the ring being simply placed on a griddle, and the batter poured in to fill it.—Ed.

#### Tea Biscuit.

Mrs. E. L. Howard, of Darien, O., writes: Having been much annoyed by seeing so many good cooks make rich, greasy, heavy biscuit, I suggest the following: take 1 pint new milk, 2 teaspoonfuls cream tartar, 1 of soda and 1 of salt; mix moderately stiff, roll out about 1½ inches thick, cut in cakes, and let it stand a short time by the stove to rise. Instead of cream tar-

tar, sour milk may be used. The dough may be made in small loaves and baked as bread. If shortening must be used, take one-third cream; more than this will prevent its rising well.

#### Ginger Snaps.

Good for this snapping weather, when a body wants "something a little warm" on a long sleigh ride, or chopping in the woods with snow knee deep, and the thermometer below "comfortable." They also make a very pleasant accompaniment for the children's cold dinners which they carry to school; they are what the writer's own mother used to give him on such occasions, "long time ago." Here is the recipe: 1 cup butter, 1 of molasses, 1 of sugar, 1 teaspoonful saleratus, 1 table spoonful ginger. These should be well mixed with flour enough to make them roll easily. Spread them thin with the roller, a little thicker than pie-crust, divide into cakes about as large as a tumbler would cut, and bake in a quick oven.

#### Dough-nuts not "Greasy."

Here is an 'invention' of 'our own' which we might 'patent,' but being employed to labor for the 'public' that public is entitled to our entire 'services.' Everybody and his wife—and particularly his little folks—love the good old fashioned dough-nuts, or "nut-cakes," or "crullers," or whatever name you call them. But many persons are troubled with 'weak digestion' (dyspepsia), and the large amount of lard or grease absorbed by the said dough-nuts does not always 'set well,' but produces a 'rising in the stomach.' When this is the case try our invention. The dough nuts being prepared as usual, just before immersing them in the hot fat, plump them into a well beaten egg. This will give a thin coating of albumen which will keep out the grease effectually. Furthermore, this coating will retain the moisture, and make them keep in good condition much longer than if not thus treated.—Ed.

#### Snowball Custard.

Contributed by Jeanne, Erie Co., Pa.: Beat the whites of 3 or 4 eggs to a froth, as you would to make frosting for cake. Then beat the yolks in a separate dish, and add to them 2 tablespoonfuls of sugar—brown will answer. Heat over a slow fire a quart of milk in a large "spider" or shallow kettle. When it is just scalding hot, drop into the milk 6 or 7 tablespoonfuls, 1 at a time, of the whites. Do not let the milk boil as this would break the balls. In a few moments turn them carefully, and when cooked lay off on a plate. Finish with the whites in the same way. Next stir the yolks into the milk, and continue stirring for about five minutes—do not allow it to boil. Pour this last into a deep dish, add a few drops of essence lemon, vanilla, or other flavoring, to suit the taste. Lay the balls on this, and—help yourself.

#### Birds' Nests.

Pare six or eight large apples, Spitzenberg or Greenings are best for this purpose, and remove the core by cutting from the end down into the middle, so as to leave the apple whole except where the core has been removed. Place them as near together as they can stand, with the open part upward, in a deep earthen pie dish. Next make a thin batter, using 1 quart sweet milk, 3 eggs, with sufficient flour, and pour it into the dish around the apples, also filling the cavities in them; bake in a quick oven. Eat them with butter and sugar, but let not their delicious taste make you forget the bounds of prudence.

#### Lemon Pie.

Grate the peel of a lemon and squeeze the juice into it. Mix with it 1 cup water, 1 of sugar,

1½ teaspoonfuls corn starch, and a lump of butter the size of an egg. Roll the top crust quite thin, or cut it into strips and lay over the pie crosswise, as you would with a tart pie. So says the wife of one of our associates, who is considered good authority.

#### Mince Pie Hints.

A lady friend of ours says a friend of hers recently visited one of her friends, and found some superior mince pies; and on inquiry as to their manufacture, she derived one or two hints new to her. First, no wine, brandy, or other alcoholic ingredient was used, but simply a mixture of good molasses and water, with rose water. Second, no suet or butter was used, but instead, the beef was boiled with fat pork, and the two chopped together with the apples. "Other condiments or spices as usual." This third-handed information may very good, but we are not prepared to judge, being a semi-Israelite in regard to fat pork, and a Grahamite in regard to putting any kind of meat in our apple pies.

#### Mince Meat—Preserving.

A lady correspondent writes: I prepare mince meat for the entire Winter and Spring, and preserve it in excellent order by simply packing it solid in jars and covering the top with melted lard, which entirely shuts out all access of air. When a portion is required for use, the lard cover is removed, and the desired quantity of meat is taken out, when the remainder is again packed smooth on the top and the remelted lard poured over. This may or may not be new to some others, but it is a long tried and approved method with me.

#### Hams—Curing, and Keeping in a New Way.

C. R. Palmer, of Susquehanna Co., Pa., writes: To the number of directions for curing hams already given in the *Agriculturist*, let me add ours, which if once tried, my word for it (or rather my wife's word) you will find it the best way hams were ever packed. For 100 lbs. of hams, make a brine of 8 lbs. rock salt, 3 ounces of saltpetre, 3 pints of molasses, and 4 gallons of water. Let the hams lie in this pickle three weeks, and then take out and repack them, to expose every part to the brine. Let them lie three weeks more, then take out and dry them thoroughly and smoke to your liking. Next cut them in slices ½ inch thick, removing the skin and bone. Pack the pieces as lightly as possible in stone jars, and pour over melted lard enough to cover the whole. If the care be taken, taking out pieces for use, to cover the rest with lard, they will keep admirably, and the last pieces at the bottom of the jars will be as fresh as when just smoked. [This strikes us as an effectual and valuable plan. The lard will not be spoiled for cooking purposes; and if the pieces be well cleared from lard, there will be no more left upon them than will be needed for frying.—Ed.]

#### Nuts-foot Oil.

J. N. Baker, High Prairie, Ill., writes: Take the knee joints of cattle, and boil them three or four hours, when the oil will rise to the top of the water. Remove the kettle from the fire, and when cold skim off the oil. Every farmer and every one who would preserve leather, should keep a supply of this article on hand. For softening and preserving leather of harness, boots and shoes, etc., it has no equal. It is also highly recommended for sore teats of cows.

**MORE OF THEM.**—Our room run out much sooner than our stock of recipes.





### Uncle Frank's Chat with the Boys and Girls.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT COMPOSITIONS

"Oh dear! I wish that composition was written. I don't know what to say, and if I did, I shouldn't know how to say it. I hate compositions. I wonder why Mrs. Steele is so particular about them. She makes us all write, whether we have any brains or not. I wish somebody would invent a machine for grinding out compositions. I am sure I would give all my spending money for six months, to get one that would do up the thing handsomely."

So said little Anna, a good friend of mine, not many evenings since. She said it with some peevishness, though I must do her the justice to say that generally she is a very good natured girl.

Now, it would be strange if my readers did not embrace a large number, both of boys and girls, who go to schools where it is necessary to write compositions; and though I am not a clairvoyant, and don't profess to have the hope of seeing things a thousand miles off, I dare say, that there are whole regiments of you who dislike compositions as much as Anna does! It was on this account that I took it into my head to give you a few hints about compositions, in order, if possible, to put you in the way of making the planning and building of them somewhat easier and pleasanter.

1. My first hint is, that the writing of compositions is one of the most important of all your school exercises; your teachers do well in making this thing prominent in your studies. You will see this plainly enough, one of these days.

2. In choosing a subject, don't take one beyond your grasp. Select a theme which you can make yourself in some measure, master of. I think that just in this direction there is a very common error, and a very fatal one, for, unless I am greatly mistaken, it tends to make a wearisome task of the composition, at the same time that it robs the composition itself of all its sprightliness, and sets it to limping and staggering, like an old blind, worn-out horse.

3. Don't walk on stilts. They are well enough in their way, but in walking and writing, you had better give them a thorough letting alone. Use plain, simple, common, every-day language. That is natural, and what is natural is generally best. You are not yet a fully expanded Milton, or an Addison, or a Washington Irving, or a Hannah More, or a Mrs. Browning, or a Mrs. Stowe. So we do not expect you to soar with them in their wonderful flights of genius. Don't use long words. Short ones are best. If I tell you a story about a man who lost his way among the snows of the Alps, wouldn't it be better to say that he went up rather than that he ascended the slope of the mountain? If I wished to impress it on your mind that he was to blame for not taking a guide with him, would it not be in better taste to say that his neglect was wrong, than that it was reprehensible? I think so; and my advice is, that you give the big words a "wide berth," as the sailors say of dangerous rocks.

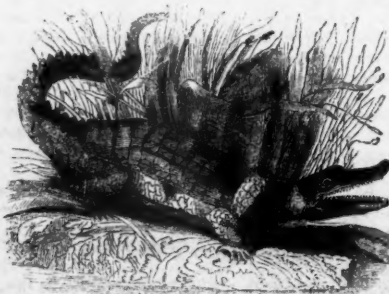
4. Don't dip very deep into poetry. Serve up that article in small quantities, and only once in a great while [if at all—Ed.]. The fact is, that good prose is worth much more than poor poetry. I know well, that it is not uncommon for young people, in most of our schools, to try their hands at this branch of composition; but I know

equally well that they are apt to make sorry work of it. They spend a great deal of time, and accomplish but little. Their lines are hard to write, and hard to read, reminding one of the wag's description of his horse, who had but two faults, one that he was hard to catch, and the other that he was good for nothing after he was caught. I wouldn't cut you off from the pleasure of making a stray rhyme now and then, but in your compositions, I would decidedly recommend prose.

5. If it is possible to do so, take a subject that interests you. If it interests you deeply, so much the better. Those things which you see and hear, every day of your life, if you will take a suitable note of them, and have a place for them in your mind, and make the most of them, will furnish you with a great deal of excellent material. Let me illustrate this a little, for I have a case in point which is fresh in my mind. I spent last Christmas day at the house of a friend, who has a daughter about twelve years of age. While I was there, this girl went out into the street on some errand. When she came in, her countenance expressed the greatest possible interest. It was evident she had seen or heard something of which her mind was full and running over. The story soon came out, I doubt whether we could have kept it in, if we had tried, which, of course, we had no disposition to do. She had seen a man with a hand organ—an organ which not only ground out music, but performed far more wonderful feats. Attached to the instrument was a table, with a circular railway. As soon as the musician commenced turning his crank, a door flew open, and a procession started out from a place of concealment, which moved around in grand style, on the railway. The procession proved to be a miniature imitation of the one which the New-Yorkers got up last September, in honor of the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph. There were the military, and lots of great men, with the famous Mr. Field, to wind up with. I wish you could have seen and heard that girl, while she was telling her story. She was really eloquent I assure you. "Mary," said I, after she had finished, "there is a composition for you." "Good!" said she, half crazy with delight, "so there is. I'll write it this very day." And so she did, putting into it a little fun, just enough, as she said afterwards, to make her teacher laugh heartily.

#### THE BOY WHO DOES HIS OWN THINKING.

There is a pretty sharp boy living at Bridgeport, in the good old state of Connecticut—I mean the chap who has just written me a letter. And by the way, I've a notion that the boys down in that region are all a little sharper than they are in most other States, and that they get their "eye teeth" cut pretty early. But whether that is so or not, I'll answer for there being one smart boy in Bridgeport. His letter is about that horned frog I told you about in the January number of the *Agriculturist*. Listen to him: "I am almost sure, Uncle Frank, that this Texas animal is a *Saurian*. He seems to me, according to his picture and the description given of him, to have very few affinities with the *Batrachian* family." Well, well, this young colt will make it necessary for me to brush up my learning somewhat, that's clear. The *Saurian* or lizard family is thus laconically described by one of the best naturalists in this country: "An order of reptiles including all which are covered with scales, and have four legs." So it appears that we can't make a *Saurian* without scales, of which our horned frog was destitute. Here is a picture of a most undoubted member of the



family—one who is every inch a *Saurian*. You don't need to be told that this is the Alligator. I call your attention to him, to show how wide is the difference in the characteristics of the two families. Do you think there is much blood relation between our modest frog and this scaly fellow?

Now let us see what are the distinctive peculiarities of the *Batrachian* or frog family. I quote from the same authority: "An order of reptiles with a naked body, and two or four feet, including frogs, toads, salamanders, &c." This letter, boys and girls, pleased me very much, and

I'll tell you why. It shows that the boy is disposed to think for himself, and not rely altogether on the thinking machinery of others. That boy will be somebody, one of these days, though he may first make a hundred mistakes as bad as to call our Texan toad a *Saurian* instead of a *Batrachian*.

#### "WHIP BEHIND."

This is not an uncommon street cry in New-York. It comes from a boy, and is addressed to the driver of an omnibus. The meaning of it is, "There's a chap holding on to the back of your stage, and you would do well to whip him off." I often encounter a boy, who is stealing a ride in this way; and he always makes me think of those plants which are called *parasites*. You know what a parasite is, don't you? It is a plant which gets its living by sucking the juices of other plants. I should be very sorry to see a young friend of mine making a parasite of himself in this manner. He would sink in my estimation a good many degrees. I should be almost afraid he would be a hanger-on to society some day, just as he is now a hanger-on to an omnibus.



### Grandmother with the Little Girls.

#### NO. 3—ABOUT NEATNESS IN GENERAL, AND WASHING DISHES IN PARTICULAR.

How d'ye do, my girls? And how have you all been since our last visit? I hope none of you made yourselves sick with all the good things brought you by "Santa Claus," and "Old January," whom Uncle Frank told about. If you'll remember to eat only candies that are not colored, and not eat too much, they will not harm you. The green and yellow and blue candies have all sorts of poison stuff in them. When I was young we didn't see much candy; our folks used to make maple sugar every Spring, and when mother wanted to give us something nice, she would go to the pantry, take down the big wooden box where it was kept, and hand out a good large lump. We were not afraid to eat it, for we knew it was made just as neat as could be. I don't see how folks can bear to eat what is not clean—no matter if they can't see the dirt, it wasn't made to eat. I went down to the City once, to visit a friend, and while I was there, we had baker's bread to eat. At first I thought it was very nice; it was so light and white; but one day when I was walking out, I passed a cellar where a baker was at work mixing bread. O, my! He was a great blousy looking man, with a dirty checked shirt on, and as true as I live he was smoking a filthy pipe, right over where he was kneading the dough. And such a looking cellar! I couldn't eat any more baker's bread after looking in there.

My old minister used to say "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and I think he was very near right, for I never saw many filthy people that were very good people. Above all things I love to see every thing neat about the cooking, and the dishes, and the table.

Some people look pretty nice themselves, and if you call on them, their parlors will look very handsome, but when you happen to get a peep into the kitchen, you wonder how they can live so, and you do not care even to stay to tea. I suppose they leave it all to the "help," and many girls employed as servants, having never been taught how to do work properly, are very careless and untidy. But the mistress of the house should always be able to supervise all the work, and give such instructions to her domestics, as to leave them no excuse for such neglect.



## WASHING DISHES.

I think it would puzzle some ladies very much to tell their girls how to wash dishes properly. This is work which little girls can learn to do quite easily, and if you will remember my way of doing it, I am sure you will never be ashamed to have your dishes come on the table. I used always to have two dish-pans, one to wash and one to rinse in. First I would make a strong suds, in the washing pan, and partly fill the other with clean hot water. Then, the dishes which are not greasy, such as the bread and cake plates, cups and saucers, &c., should be put into the suds, and each washed with a clean cloth—not some old rag, all worn out and “lindy,” but a neat coarse cloth nicely hemmed. A short stick with a piece of new linen cloth tied on the end of it, like a small mop, is a very nice thing to wash deep dishes or those that have many “creases” and “dents” in them, such as fancy glass preserve dishes.

As fast as the dishes are taken from the suds they should be put into the rinsing pan, before the suds can dry on; and then they should be placed on something to drain. An old tea-board is very good for this purpose. A shelf over the sink, made slanting to carry the water into the sink, is better still. After the nicer dishes are washed, more hot suds should be put into the first pan, and the greasy dishes washed with a different dish cloth, for it is not neat to use the same one for all kinds of dishes. I’ve seen cloths in some kitchens that looked as if they were used to keep dirt off from every thing in the house.

After the greasy dishes are washed, the knives and forks have their turn. But don’t put the handles into the hot water; it will make them warp and separate from the blades; I’ve seen many a good set spoiled in this way. The pots and kettles come last, and the dish cloth ought never to go into these; a separate cloth should be kept on purpose, and when they are washed, set them by the fire to dry, to keep them from rusting.

While you are washing your dishes, your sister may be wiping them, after they have been well drained. This can be done much more quickly and nicely with two towels, taking one in each hand, for then you need not leave any finger marks on the dishes, but make them shine all over, as bright as your eyes—and they will, if the work is well done.

Always be careful in washing glass vessels, not to put them into very hot water at first, as they may be cracked by it. The rinsing water may be made hotter than the first water, as dishes bear heat better if it be not applied too suddenly.

The sink should be thoroughly washed out after finishing with the dishes. If you wash it once or twice a week with strong ley made from wood ashes, it will take out the grease and prevent the unpleasant smell that a neglected sink always has.

Do you think you can remember all this? You must try, for when I come to take tea with you I shall put on my best spectacles, and see if you have heeded what I have told you. You may go and play now. Good afternoon.

## The Editor with his Young Readers.

Well, young friends, here we are again—come to a resting place in our journey through the year, where we may sit down and have an evening’s chat. Let’s call the roll and see if all have arrived safely at the Station. “John!” “Here sir!” “James!” “Here!” “William?” “Here!” “Mary?” “Here!” “Jane?” “Here!” “Ellen?” “Here!”—Hold on; we can’t call the whole roll, it’s too long. Let’s “count noses” as they say, and see how many are here. “One, two, three....one hundred....two-hundred....five-hundred....one-thousand....ten-thousand....fifty-thousand....a hundred thousand....two-hundred thousand....Stop, stop—Two hundred thousand boys and girls in our company! How can that be? You have counted some of them twice, have you not? Let us see. We shall print of this number just about fifty-thousand copies—perhaps a few thousand more. Let us try Colburn’s Mental Arithmetic—one of the best school books ever published, by the way, because it taught boys and girls to carry their slates and pencils in their heads.—Well 50,000 copies go to 50,000 families. In these families there is an average of about four boys and girls who can read. (Fanny Fern says a house is not well furnished until there are six or eight little ones in it—she said nine or ten we think, but we have forgotten). In some households there are less than four, and in some none; but in others there are more than four, and to make up any deficiency we will count in those where the paper is loaned, and allow also for the great number of papers which are constantly read by two or more families. So our company of little folks must number at least 4 times 50,000, or 200,000! Don’t you feel a great deal larger when you think what an immense company you help make up. We begin to feel—to feel—to feel—well we were going to say scared, when we look at you all, in imagination, and see so many

pairs of bright eyes all turned towards us; but it is not exactly scared we are. In short we don’t know exactly how we do feel. We once stood up to talk to 2,000 children, and it was about the most pleasing sight we ever saw, and we never felt better in our life—that’s just about how we feel now.

## A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wished you all last month. Did you have them? We believe you all “wished us the same,” and the wish was granted, for we did have “the same”—specially the “merry Christmas.” That gathering of children we told you about last month, turned out to be the best thing of the kind we ever did see. This page is not large enough to tell you all the nice things done and said—of the splendid table loaded with such lots of things; of the Christmas trees reaching to the ceiling and their branches bending under the knick-knacks hung on them—and of the surprise presents we got that day and now preserve as mementoes. Our head has been so full of the subject ever since that we could hardly keep from letting a little out. But we’ll not give you a “report.”—Imagine the whole affair got up in a way to please you most, and you will hit it—for the children who were there all said it was as good as it could be, and “children are all alike” you know.



TRAPPING BIRDS.

Very busy, we commissioned an artist to get up a picture for the little folks, to go on this page—one to suit himself, but appropriate to the season—and the engraving given above is what he brought us at the last moment. As a picture it is beautiful. See how natural every thing is brought out by means of little points and lines left upon the block. You can even see the snow on the tree. But we confess we don’t like the subject of the picture. We don’t like the looks of those boys trying to catch the innocent little snow birds. If the birds knew, wouldn’t they be off? One little fellow, not quite under the trap, seems to be a little suspicious of danger. He is peering about to see if any harm is near. Don’t you hope he’ll fly away and scare the rest too? Do you quite like the appearance of the boy who holds the string, and is no doubt the head of the party? With his coat off, his trousers tucked into his boots, and his hat set on one side, we think there is a “don’t care” look about him that is not very promising. “Don’t care” is a bad beginning for any boy to make. If the truth could be known, perhaps we should find him one who has left his threshing in the barn, the roof of which you can just see over the fence in the background, and taking the grain screen, he has coaxed the other boys who should be at school, to go out with him to trap the snow-birds. A boy that would trap such innocent little fellows, that do no harm and that are useless when caught, would be likely to do such tricks. Some one should sing to him that sweet little song “Chick-a-dee-dee,”—written by our “Uncle Frank,”—to soften his hard nature a little.

## “THE BEST GIRL.”

In our school last Sabbath, there was one vacant seat. It was that of little Mary, who was with us on Christmas Day—so joyful, so happy. Alas! she is with us no more. Scarcely had the New-Year dawned, ere Death came and plucked away one of our loveliest flowers. How often we think of Death as the keeper of a garden, who goes around continually among the flower beds, sometimes to dig up weeds, and cut out full grown stalks that have served the

purpose of their existence; and at others to gather a bouquet of flowers for his master. Mark how he chooses the loveliest, sweetest blossoms, until he has his hands full of them. So Death will go around among our company many times this year and pick one here and another there—in all a great number. If he take you, my child, will it be as a useless or noxious weed, or a flower fragrant in good deeds? How is it? Sometimes we think of Death as a reaper who cuts down the tall ripening grain, but whose scythe also clips off the heads of the flowers that grow among it. Here is the way the poet Longfellow has expressed it:

“There is a reaper whose name is Death,  
And, with his sickle keen,  
He reaps the bearded grain at a breath  
And the flowers that grow between.”

In another verse it is said:

“But not in cruelty, not in wrath,  
The reaper came that day—  
An angel visited the green earth,  
And took the flowers away.”

Are not those beautiful thoughts? But we commenced to give you an item about our departed Mary, which was related last Sabbath by her former teacher in the public school. It was this: A few weeks ago a gentleman visited the school, and while there he took out a curiosity from his pocket and showed it to the scholars. “Now,” said he, “if I knew who was the best girl in the school I would call her here to examine this particularly. If the school can decide who is the best girl I will call her.” This he said as an introduction to a speech, not thinking the scholars would agree among themselves. But he had hardly stated the proposition when the whole school called out “Mary A.” Was not that a real honor? By her goodness alone—for she was a meek unobtrusive child—she drew forth the unanimous approval of the whole of the little world around her. This incident teaches at least one important lesson, viz., that all persons, young as well as old, really admire genuine goodness of heart in others, no matter how bad they may be themselves, and when their sentiments come out spontaneously, as on the occasion referred to, they approve the right. Remember, then, that however much others may pretend to praise your unworthy acts, and cry “bravo” when you stubbornly disobey commands or show forth a wrong spirit, or jeeringly taunt you for doing rightly, yet these same persons in their hearts really respect and love truth and uprightness. Their pretended approbation of wrong doing is merely the capping of a wish that others may sink as low as themselves. Strive then to do right under all circumstances, for then you will not only secure the real approbation of all who know you, and also have the approval of your own hearts, but more than all this, you will be honored by that Good Being who made and who sustains you.

## THE ECLIPSE THIS MONTH.

Every boy and girl of you must remember to go to bed very early on Tuesday, the 16th day of February, for you will want to be up bright and early on the morning of the 17th to see the grand sight of a total eclipse of the moon. The eclipse will not be seen at the same o’clock, everywhere, for when it begins it will be not quite three o’clock, in the morning out in Iowa, while it will be 7 minutes past 3 at Chicago, Ill., and places north and south of there; 20 minutes past 3 at Cincinnati, O., Macon, Geo., etc.; and about 40 minutes past 3 at Pittsburgh, Pa., Charleston, S. C., etc.; about 4 o’clock at New-York, Philadelphia, etc.; and 13 to 16 minutes past 4 in Boston, Augusta, Me., etc.

The eclipse will be total (the moon all dark) in 57 minutes after it begins, and remain so for 98 minutes, and afterwards be partially eclipsed for 57 minutes longer, or in all 212 minutes (3 hours and 32 minutes). Those living furthest West will have the advantage, as the eclipse begins so early there, that they can see the whole of it, for their part of the earth will not be turned round to the sun in time to bring daylight before the eclipse will all be over.

The moon will be in the West of course, because it must be on the opposite side from the sun which will then be about to rise in the East. You know that an eclipse of the moon is caused by the earth getting between the sun and moon, and shutting the light of the sun off; that is, the moon gets in the earth’s great shadow. (An eclipse of the sun is caused by the moon getting on the same side of us, that is the moon gets between us and the sun and hides from us a part and sometimes the whole of the light of the sun.)

The moon does not send out light itself, but only shines when the sun’s light falls on it and is reflected or thrown

back to us. On the 17th of February, the earth will stop the light from falling on the moon for a while. The moon moves around the earth, and if you watch it you will see when one side of it gets into the earth's great shadow. It will then move further and further into the shadow, and bye and bye (in 57 minutes) get wholly in it. In 98 minutes more, it will have moved across or through the earth's shadow, and you will see the other side of the moon begin to come out where the sun can again shine upon it—it will keep moving on until it gets clear out into light again. Just about then, that is in the Western and South-western States, the earth will have turned around to the East, away from the sight of the moon, and into sight of the sun. We explained this turning of the earth, and difference of time, in last volume, page 344.

#### A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE LITTLE FOLKS.

We think we could pick out from the business letters received this year so far, as many as a hundred at least, which each contain a sentence like this: ".....The crops have been so poor and times so hard that I thought we must do without the *Agriculturist* this year, but my children beg so hard for it that I must send on my subscription and cut off some other outlay....." We don't know how many others there are who might have written in the same way, but probably a good many. The publisher is very grateful for this kind interest on the part of his young friends, and, meeting being called to order he hereby and herein offers a unanimous vote of thanks to each and all of them. He wishes he could send every one of them a copy of the "Big Dictionary," such as has been sent to a good many boys and a few little girls too.

#### New Problems:



**PROBLEM 33.**—To separate the above two individuals without untying the strings, or removing them from the wrists. It can be easily done when you find out how.



**PROBLEM 34.**—To remove the shears from the string—the end of the string being firmly fastened to a nail in the wall, or some other immovable object, which can not be put through the handles of the shears. This is also easily performed when you know how.

**33—DOG PROBLEM.**—Further answers. Our last number had scarcely gone to the stereotypers when in came a lot more of answers from boys and girls who lived too far off for their letters to arrive sooner. As we mean to be impartial, we will add here the names of those who sent answers before they had time to get the solution in the January number: A. Buckhart, Oswego Co., N. Y.; F. W. Fletcher, Southington; F. A. Allen, Bradford Co., Pa.; A. Bodine, Rush Co., Ind.; Sallie E. Fort, Ocean Co., N. J.; H. A. Simpson, Pike Co., Ill.; Wm. J. Badger, Clark Co., Ind.; E. E. Stearns, no address; Emily G. Curtis (10y.), Fairfield Co., Ct.; J. Datesman, jr. no address; S. E. Theus, Savannah, Geo. (very neat); O. W. Brown, Worcester Co., Ill.; H. Conklin, Fon du Lac Co., Wis.; C. Hoffman, Jr., Dauphin Co., Pa.; H. E. Tainter, Windham Co., Conn.; T. Ford, (8y.) Ritchie Co., Va.; W. H. Kern, and J. V. Voach, Henry Co., Ind.; Benj. Andrews, Knox Co., Ill. (says "they swap heads"); S. F. Dyer, Kendall Co., Ill.; E. P. McClure, Des Moines Co., Iowa; S. Marvin, Morrow Co., O.; J. W. Botsfield,

Delaware Co., Ind.; S. K. Bare, York Co., Pa.; B. C. Lowe, Jackson Co., Ind.; J. Pearsall, no address; J. W. Nichols, Mahaska Co., Iowa; H. Wickerson, C. W.; Wm. Paul, Washington Co., Pa.; Geo. Wilcox, Hartford Co., Conn.; K. Louisa Co., Iowa; C. G. Whiting, Suffolk Co., N. Y.; J. M. Smith, Otsego Co., N. Y. (sorry you cut your *Agriculturist*); Annie Foggan, Upper Canada; W. A., Wayne Co., Pa.; J. Hamilton, Davis Co., O.; Geo. L. Church (13y.), Newport Co., R. I.; N. Warren, Upshur Co., Va.; Sarah W. Taylor, Saratoga Co., N. Y.; C. L. Miller, St. Jos. Co., Mich.; D. W. Stanley, Wayne Co., Ind.; D. Davis, Rush Co., Ind.; Josephine Shepard, Hartford Co., Conn.; F. B. Hendricks, De Kalb Co., Ind.; W. Phillips, Edward Co., Ill.

Problem 31 still remains unanswered, except by a very few. As this problem is useful and will help to fix several important facts in the mind, we believe it worth while to re-publish it here for a multitude of new subscribers and those not having preserved the November numbers. It runs thus:

The present inhabitants of the world number about **1,283,000,000** (viz.: in Asia, 720,000,000; Europe, 272,000,000; America, 200,000,000; Africa, 89,000,000; Islands of the Ocean, 2,000,000). If all were gathered upon a plain and only a yard square (3 feet each way) of standing room allowed to each.

Question 1st.—How many acres would they cover?

Quest. 2nd.—How many square miles?

Quest. 3d.—If standing in a square body, how far would the multitude extend each way?

Quest. 4th.—If they stood in a circular mass, what would be the distance through the circle?

Suppose them to form in marching order, like soldiers in single file, and allow only 3 feet for each individual to walk in:

Quest. 5th.—How many miles would the line extend?

Quest. 6th.—How many times around the globe would the line reach?

Suppose the earth to be exactly 25,000 miles in circumference, and three-quarters of its surface to be covered with water and rocks.

Quest. 7.—How many acres of tillable land are there left for each man, woman and child?

Suppose only one person out of thirty dies each year (a very low estimate):

Quest. 8.—How many die every year?

Quest. 9.—How many die every day?

Quest. 10.—How many die every hour?

Quest. 11.—How many die every minute?

Quest. 12.—If every human being in the whole United States (say 25,000,000) were swept off in a single year, how many more would die elsewhere each year, to equal the whole number of deaths annually in the human family, allowing as, before, only one in 30 to die?

The correct or nearly correct answers received so far are from: Nathan Blakeslee, Oakland Co., Mich.; S. P. Sharple, Chester Co., Pa.; Ebenezer Caldwell, Alleghany Co., Pa. (all except Quest. 4); R. Harvey, Jo Davis Co., Ill. (all except Quest. 7); Sparks Wall, Guernsey Co., O. (all except Quest. 4 & 7); R. E. Tlickinger, Juniata Co., Pa. (all except Quests. 3, 4, 7, 12); From Leedsville, N. Y., we have the following: Ira H. Dean, all right. Harry Swift, James Chaffee, John Reed, Kate Reed, and Helen Bird, all except Quests. 3, 4 & 7. H. V. D. Reed and Edward Swift, solved the 3, 4 & 7 questions.

### PREMIUMS!

We desire to extend the circulation of the *Agriculturist* into tens of thousands of families where it is still unknown. To accomplish this, we offer to those who will assist in the work, the following premiums, which are certainly liberal, if the cost of the paper, and the low price at which it is furnished be taken into account. [A few of the less important premiums, though still given when desired, are omitted here. They can be found in the January number.]

**Premium III.**—Any person sending in a club of 10 subscribers at \$8, may order a free copy of either Vol. XVI or Vol. XVII, which will be sent in numbers.

**Premium V.**—Any person sending 25 subscribers and \$20, will be entitled to both Volumes XVI and XVII, sent in numbers post-paid. (N. B.—If \$21 be sent, the two Volumes will be bound neatly in one cover, and forwarded post-paid.)

**Premium VI.**—Any person sending in \$24 for 30 subscribers, one-third or more of them new ones, will be entitled to a silver eased Microscope, with the celebrated "Coddington lens"—the same as fig. 4, in July No., page 219. Price \$4. (It will be safely packed and sent by mail, post-paid.)

**Premium VII.**—Any person sending \$32 for 40 subscribers, (one-half new names,) will be entitled to the large unabridged Webster's Dictionary, containing 1,376 3-column pages—the best and most complete work of the kind in the world. Price \$6. It weighs 7 lbs., and can

be sent by express or by mail (\$1.12) at the expense of the recipient, after leaving the city.



**Premium IX.**—Any person or company of persons sending in 144 new subscribers at the lowest club price (80 cents each) or one hundred new subscribers at \$1.00 each, will be presented with one of Wheeler & Wilson's best \$50 Sewing Machines, new from the manufactory. These \$50 machines are just as good for all working purposes as those recently sold at \$100. No better working machines are made. The names can be easily gathered in single towns or in two or three adjoining ones (they need not all be at the same Post office). Two or more ladies may unite their efforts and secure a Sewing Machine as common property. As fast as these machines are secured by the requisite number of subscribers, they are selected at the manufactory by the Publisher, and securely packed and forwarded by any route or conveyance desired. There are no charges of any kind, except for transportation after leaving the city. Full instructions for setting up and using go with each machine.

**Premium X.**—The Lady or company of Ladies sending the largest list of names above 144, before May 1st, will be presented with a higher priced machine, that is, one put up in an extra case.

**Remarks.**—It will be noticed that any person trying for one of the higher premiums, and failing to get names enough, can still take one of the lower ones, according to the number of names obtained.

Every person collecting names for premiums, can send them in with the money as fast as received; but if designed for premiums, a double list of the names should be sent, one of them marked at the top, "For premiums," and with the name of the sender. These duplicate lists will be kept on file by themselves to be referred to in making up the premium when any person has completed sending in names for Volume XVII.

We do not set any time for the completion of the lists it being understood that these premiums are only for subscriptions for volume XVIII (1859), whenever received. The premiums will be paid as soon as the names are in.

#### Seeds for Free Distribution in 1859.

Each person whose subscription to the *American Agriculturist* is paid beyond February, 1859, will be entitled to select three parcels of seeds from the general list given below. (If only flower seeds are chosen, 5 parcels may be selected by each person—or 3 of flowers, and one other kind.)

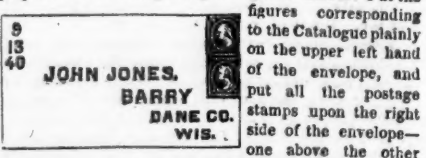
**A.** It is of absolute importance that the following directions be strictly followed, even to the minutest particulars. We have 73 distinct varieties of seeds, to be distributed among 50,000 or more persons scattered all over the country, which, at the best, will involve immense labor; and some mistakes must unavoidably occur, unless each subscriber take special pains to facilitate the work.

**B.** The seeds can be called for at the office, or be sent by express, or in ready prepared envelopes to be furnished by the subscriber, as described below.

**C.** Subscribers at different points can estimate whether they can receive their seeds cheapest by Mail to separate individuals, or in a package by Express.

**D.** If to go by Express, no envelopes will be needed. In that case, simply send us a written list of the names, marking against each name the kinds of seed desired, using the numbers in the Catalogue. Keep a duplicate of the list sent, and give particular directions, on the list, how the packages are to be forwarded, and to whom directed.

**E.** If to go by mail, the applicant will (of course) furnish prepaid envelopes, of ordinary size, which should be prepared as in the engraving here given—that is: Put the



figures corresponding to the Catalogue plainly on the upper left hand of the envelope, and put all the postage stamps upon the right side of the envelope—one above the other when two or more are needed, as shown in this pattern. This will prevent the seeds being crushed in the stamping process, in the Post-Office. One ordinary envelope will generally hold the amount of seed-packages carried by two or three stamps. **\$5.** The amount of stamps can be calculated from the Catalogue. Single 1-cent stamps on letters are of no value, unless there be even three of them, as letter postage is rated by the half ounce.

**F.** Let letters referring to seeds be as brief as possible, and yet plain. All such communications are referred directly to the clerk superintending that department. It is especially desirable that whatever relates to seeds



should be on a separate slip of paper. (We shall probably distribute over two hundred thousand packages, and a minute's time saved on each of these would amount to 333 working days of 10 hours each—more than a whole year!)

G. Canada, California and Oregon subscribers will need to substitute 10-cent stamps in all cases where 3-cent stamps are named in the catalogue. When several send together from Canada, it will usually be cheaper to receive the seeds by Express. (Postage need not necessarily be prepaid here, on Canada letters.)

H. Always put the stamps upon the envelopes, and not drop them loosely into the enclosing letter.

I. It is always better to send envelopes of the ordinary size, and made after what is called the "Government pattern"—that is, those in which the back comes under the piece lapping over; these seal up more firmly. This point is not essential, however.

J. Usually, the lighter the envelope the better, that more seeds may go under the same stamps.

K. Send only the number of stamps required for postage on the seed. We have no seeds of any kind to sell.

L. Those forwarding unpaid envelopes will of course not be disappointed if they do not return. We offer seeds free, but cannot, in addition, afford to pay postage also.

M. All seeds sent by mail are put up at our country residence, and each package is there mailed direct, to avoid its being overhauled at the Distributing Offices.

N. We shall take time to mail all the seeds carefully and regularly. This will occupy the entire months of February and March. Those going to subscribers on the Pacific Coast, and in Southern States where the seasons are earlier, will be mailed first, and with dispatch. To others they will go as fast as the putting up and mailing can be accomplished—but to all in ample season for Spring planting and sowing.

#### LIST OF SEEDS.

##### Field Seeds.

- 1—White Sugar Beet—Single or double packages, as may be desired, requiring one or two 3-cent postage stamps.
- 2—King Philip Corn—Single, double, or triple packages, as may be desired, requiring one, two, or three 3-cent stamps.
- 3—Stowell's Sweet Corn—Same packages as No. 1.
- 4—White Poland Oats—Same packages as No. 2.
- 5—Chinese Sugar Cane—Any subscriber may select any amount, from half an ounce up to a full pound of this, by providing for the transportation by mail, or express, or otherwise. If to go by mail, a 3-cent stamp must be sent for each half ounce. No prepared envelopes will be needed if the address be plainly given.
- 6—Ashcroft's Swedish Turnip—Half of 3-cent stamp.
- 7—River's Swedish Stubble Turnip—do. do.
- 63—Purple-top Scotch, or Bullock Turnip—do. do.
- 69—Green-top Scotch, or Bullock Turnip—do. do.
- 70—Waite's London purple-top Swede Turnip—do. do.
- 93—Hungarian Grass—One 3-cent stamp.
- 94—Crystal Flint or Hominy Corn—One 3-cent stamp.

##### Vegetable or Garden Seeds.

- 8—Daniel O'Rourke Pea—Packages same as No. 1.
- 9—Champion of England Pea—One 3-cent stamp.
- 10—British Queen Pea—do. do.
- 11—Hair's Dwarf Mammoth Pea—do. do.
- 59—King of the Marrows Pea—do. do.
- 12—Green Kohl Rabi—One-third of a 3-cent stamp.
- 13—Enfield Market Cabbage—do. do.
- 14—Alma Cauliflower—do. do.
- 15—Mammoth Cabbage Lettuce—do. do.
- 21—Winter Cherry—do. do.
- 17—Red Strap-Leaf Turnip—One-half of a 3-cent stamp.
- 19—Round Spinach—do. do.
- 20—Salsify—do. do.
- 22—Boston Marrow Squash—do. do.
- 55—White Globe Onion—do. do.
- 72—Imported Brussels Sprouts—do. do.
- 73—Egg Plants, (mixed)—do. do.
- 74—Solid White Celery—do. do.
- 75—Green Curled Endive—do. do.
- 76—Musk Melon—do. do.
- 77—Water Melon—do. do.
- 92—Okra—do. do.
- 16—Long Orange Carrot—do. do.
- 71—Long White French Turnip—One 3-cent stamp.

##### Flower and Ornamental Seeds.

Of these any subscriber may choose three parcels, with one of those above; or five parcels, with none of the above. The Flower and Ornamental Seeds are put up in small packages, the amount in each depending upon the variety of the seeds, their size, the number required for a common flower-bed, etc.

- 39—Marvel of Peru—One-third of a 3-cent stamp.
- 45—Sweet Peas—do. do.
- 46—Mixed Lupins—do. do.
- 59—Cotton Plant (3 kinds)—One 3-cent stamp.
- 90—Norway Spruce Seed—One-half of a 3-cent stamp.
- 91—Arbor Vitae Seed—do. do.

On an average, about five of the following 32 varieties will go under a 3-cent postage stamp.

- 23—Mignonette. 47—Morning Glory, mixed.
- 25—Mixed Nasturtiums. 48—Flos Adonis.
- 27—Extra Cockcomb. 49—Candy Tuft.
- 28—Dwf. Rocket Larkspur. 50—Schizanthus.
- 29—Double Balsams, mix'd. 51—Phlox Drummondii.
- 30—Tassel Flower. 78—Ageratum Mexicanum.
- 31—Chinese Pink. 79—Germ. 10-weeks Stock.
- 32—Portulacas, mixed. 80—Yellow Hawkweed.
- 33—Cypress Vine. 81—Canary Bird Flower.
- 34—China Asters, mixed. 82—Thunbergia.
- 35—German Asters, mixed. 83—Snap-Drum.
- 37—Zinnia Elegans. 84—African Marigold.
- 38—Sweet William. 85—Gaillardia, mixed.
- 40—Escholtzia Californica. 86—Euphorbia, mixed.
- 41—Elegant Clarkia. 87—Coreopsis.
- 42—Foxglove. 88—Globe Amaranth.

#### Special Seed Premiums to Ladies.

To any lady procuring and forwarding (after Feb. 1) six subscribers and \$5, we will forward post-paid for her own use an extra package of fifteen papers of the above flower seeds.

To any lady forwarding (after Feb. 1) ten subscribers and \$8, we will send a post-paid package containing the last named 32 varieties of flower seeds in the above list (No. 32 to No. 88.)

#### Market Review, Weather Notes, &c.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST OFFICE,  
New York, Jan. 21, 1859.

Christmas and New-Year's shortened the business of the month two days; otherwise, movements in the Produce Markets have hardly been interrupted. Receipts of Bread Stuffs, limited, which inclines receivers to hold them firmly, in hopes of better prices. Demand from home trade, good, but from shippers light. The continued abundance of money has fostered speculation, since the advances of money easily obtained from bankers enabled dealers to meet all their engagements on January 1st; and as some of them have remarked to us, they now feel secure for ninety days more, during which time we shall not look for any pressure to sell. Western dealers who hold the bulk of produce within their control, are mutually interested with Eastern speculators, in keeping up prices. There seems to be little hope of a large foreign demand. Besides considerable amounts of produce remaining in the interior, stocks here are pretty heavy. The holders are very quiet, save the occasional exhibition of samples, at prices above the views of purchasers. Little new corn has come from the South as yet, which some attribute to the unfitness of the crop for shipping, while others contend that it is an indication of a deficient yield. At present the Bread stuff Market may be quoted as very firm. Cotton has fluctuated considerably in demand and price—closing quite briskly, however. On Wednesday, January, 19, sales were made of 7,000 bales, being about the heaviest day's business ever transacted in this Market. Pork and Lard have been quite active—much of the former having been sold for future delivery. Prices favor sellers. Packed Beef has been in good request at full rates. Butter and Cheese have been in fair demand at steady figures. Coffee, Sugars, Molasses, Teas, Rice, Spices and Clover Seed, have been actively inquired for, at improved and rising prices. Hay, Hemp, Hops, with Flax and Timothy Seeds have been quiet. Tobacco has been more sought after at steady rates. Wool has been less freely offered, and has been in good demand, at buoyant prices. In other varieties of Produce, the variations have not been very remarkable.

RECEIPTS. Flour. Wheat. Corn. Rye. Barley. Oats.  
21 bus. days this mon. 112,923 6,589 115,318 2,495 8,672  
24 bus. days last mon. 273,063 210,313 240,529 9,167 123,468 197,870

SALES. Flour. Wheat. Corn. Rye. Barley. Oats.  
24 business days this mon. 239,200 338,579 415,450 15,650 46,500  
24 business days last month, 266,420 312,150 611,690 46,700 116,330

#### EXPORTS FROM N. Y., FROM JAN. 1ST, TO JAN. 17.

	1858.	1859.
Wheat Flour, bbls.	75,724	22,816
Rye Flour, bbls.	467	606
Corn Meal, bbls.	3,997	4,825
Wheat, bush.	112,872	600
Corn, bush.	110,004	4,393

#### CURRENT WHOLESALE PRICES.

	Dec. 22.	Jan. 21.
Flour—Superf to Extra State	\$4 25 @ 4 75	\$4 80 @ 5 25
Common to Fancy Western	4 40 @ 5 10	4 65 @ 5 36
Extra Western	4 90 @ 5 50	5 30 @ 5 50
Fancy to Extra Genesee	5 35 @ 7 75	5 85 @ 7 75
Mixed to Extra Southern	4 35 @ 5 75	5 25 @ 6 75
RYE FLOUR—Fine and Super.	3 25 @ 4 10	3 40 @ 4 10
CORN MEAL	3 40 @ 4 00	3 50 @ 4 10
WHEAT—Canada White	1 20 @ 1 40	1 30 @ 1 50
Western White	1 18 @ 1 45	1 27 1/2 @ 1 65
Southern White	1 30 @ 1 50	1 30 @ 1 65
All kinds of Red	66 @ 1 25	80 @ 1 37 1/2
CORN—Yellow	75 @ 83	77 @ 83
White	72 @ 84	77 @ 83
Mixed	76 @ 77	87 @ 88 1/2
OATS—Western	63 @ 55	61 @ 63
Eastern	48 @ 51	56 @ 60
Southern	42 @ 45	48 @ 52
RYE	75 @ 80	86 @ 88

BARLEY	70 @ 92 1/2	70 @ 92 1/2
White Beans	1 12 1/2 @ 1 25	1 00 @ 1 25
HAY, in bales, per 100 lbs.	60 @ 80	75 @ 1 00
COTTON—Middle, per lb.	12 @ 13 1/2	12 @ 13 1/2
RICE, per 100 lbs.	2 02 1/2 @ 2 75	2 75 @ 4 00
Hops, crop of 1858 per lb.	10 @ 17	10 @ 18
PORK—Mess, per bbl.	17 50 @ 18 00	17 50 @ 18 00
Prime, per bbl.	12 50 @ 13 50	13 50 @ 14 00
BEER—Kneaded Mess.	5 50 @ 10 50	8 75 @ 10 50
Country mess	7 50 @ 9 00	7 75 @ 9 00
Hogs, Dressed corn, per lb.	7 1/2 @ 8	7 1/2 @ 8
Lard, in bbls per lb.	11 @ 11 1/2	11 1/2 @ 11 1/2
BUTTER—Western, per lb.	12 @ 19	12 @ 20
State, per lb.	16 @ 26	15 @ 25
CHEESE, per lb.	24 @ 25	24 @ 26
EGGS—Fresh, per dozen	24 @ 25	24 @ 26
FEATHERS, Live Geese per lb.	44 @ 50	44 @ 50
SEED—Clover, per lb.	9 1/2 @ 10	10 @ 10 1/2
Timothy, per bushel	2 00 @ 2 63 1/2	2 12 1/2 @ 2 63 1/2
SUGAR, Brown, per lb.	8 1/2 @ 9 1/2	8 @ 9 1/2
MOLASSES, New-Orleans, prgl	3 1/2 @ 36	40 @ 42
COFFEE, Rio, per lb.	23 1/2 @ 32	23 1/2 @ 32
TOBACCO—Kentucky, &c. pr lb	6 @ 14	6 @ 14
Seed Leaf, per lb.	6 @ 23	6 @ 25
Wool—Domestic fleece, per lb.	35 @ 56	36 @ 56
Domestic, pulled, per lb.	30 @ 45	30 @ 45
HEMP—Undr'd Amer'n pr ton	115 @ 135	115 @ 135
Dressed American, per ton	170 @ 190	170 @ 190
ALLOW, per lb.	100 @ 100	100 @ 100
OIL CAKE, per ton	31 00 @ 36 00	32 50 @ 36 50
POTATOES—Peach Blow, pr bbl	1 67 @ 2 25	1 67 @ 2 00
Mercers, per bbl.	1 37 @ 2 00	1 25 @ 1 87
Sweet Camden, per bbl.	3 50 @ 4 00	4 00 @ 4 00
CORN—Hutabagas, per bbl.	75 @ 87	87 @ 1 13
ONIONS, per bbl.	1 87 @ 3 50	2 50 @ 4 00
SQUASHES, Marrow, per bbl.	1 25 @ 1 50	2 25 @ 2 50
PUMPKINS—Cheese, per 100	7 00 @ 10 00	12 00 @ 13 00
CRANBERRIES, per bbl.	12 00 @ 16 00	10 00 @ 16 00
APPLES—Common, Per bbl.	2 00 @ 2 50	2 00 @ 2 50
Prime winter, Per bbl.	3 00 @ 3 50	3 50 @ 4 00
Dried, per lb.	8 @ 8 1/2	9 @ 9 1/2
POULTRY—Fowls, per lb.	10 @ 12 1/2	8 @ 9
Ducks, per lb.	12 @ 14	11 @ 14
Turkeys, per lb.	9 @ 13	9 @ 12
Geese, per lb.	8 @ 10	7 @ 10
Venison—Caracas, per lb.	7 @ 8	6 @ 7

The reported receipts of the leading kinds of produce, by the Hudson River boats, from March 25 to Dec. 25, 1858, or while the river was navigable, as well as by the Erie Railroad and the Southern boats, during the whole of the year 1858, were as follows:

	Hudson R. boats.	Erie Railroad.	Southern boats.	Total.
Ashes, bbls.	6,352	9,636	175	16,163
Flour, bbls.	2,237,733	665,766	1,272,117	4,175,616
Wheat, bushels	5,781,001	132,950	672,368	6,586,329
Corn, bushels	4,514,730	11,494	3,659,337	8,185,490
Rye, bushels	216,416	1,552	5,132	223,000
Barley, bushels	646,617	25,193	33	671,843
Oats, bushels	2,783,744	243,513	314,868	3,342,125
Malt, bushels	305,705	67,267	21,150	394,122
Provisions, pkgs.	141,624	189,106	167,785	500,515
Whiskey, bbls.	77,358	50,630	30,129	158,117

The foregoing is only a partial exhibit of the receipts of produce here. The receipts by the Hudson River Railroad, as well as those by transient boats and other conveyances from various sources, which together have constituted a very large amount, have not been ascertained; hence they are not included in the preceding statement.

#### Stocks of various articles in New-York, about Jan. 1:

	1858.	1859.
Coffee, pkgs.	127,297	67,110
Cotton, bales	15,808	32,873
Western Canal flour, bbls.	476,900	558,525
Canadian flour, bbls.	7,870	9,916
Southern flour, bbls.	118,450	160,400
Wheat, bushels	359,000	1,211,312
Corn, bushels	97,000	669,690
Rye, bushels	—	43,500
Oats, bushels	—	560,200
Barley, bushels	—	537,416
Hemp, bales	22,173	23,502
Hemp tons	550	375
Molasses, hlds.	4,013	4,314
Molasses, bbls.	4,512	2,641

#### Provisions:

	1858.	1859.
Pork, bbls.	10,558	66,528
Beef, tcs and bbls	59,144	71,880
Rice, casks	3,161	3,910
Rice, bags	4,708	—
Sugars, hlds.	16,636	19,873
Sugars, boxes	8,781	14,489
Sugars, bags	1,400	—
Tobacco, Crude, hlds.	4,044	9,461
Tobacco, Crude, bales	8,797	14,005

N. Y. Live Stock Markets.—THE CATTLE MARKETS have been moderately supplied during the past five weeks, except on Jan. 18th, (the latest market day) when a few hundred more were offered than were needed. The total receipts for five weeks, ending Jan. 19, amount to 17,183, or an average of 3,436 per week. Prices have declined 1c. @ 1c. per lb. during that time. Average prices on Jan. 19th were 10c. @ 10c. per lb. dressed weight for prime; 8c. @ 8c. for medium, and 6c. @ 7c. for poor, while some animals, totally unfit to kill brought no more than 5c. per lb. net. The average was about 8c.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Receipts of live sheep have not been large; footing up 36,539 for the past five weeks, or 7,308 per week. There is a good demand for prime sheep at 5c. @ 5c. per lb. gross or live weight. Common stock commands about 4c. @ 4c. Dead mutton is coming in freely by railroad.

HOGS.—Receipts for the five weeks just ended amount to 53,174, which is less than for the three weeks immediately preceding. Large numbers of the late arrivals have been poor, and have sold at 5c. @ 5c. mostly for feeding.

heavy corn hogs are now worth 64c. @ 64c. per lb. live weight.

**The Weather** during the past month has been exceedingly variable, including one heavy fall of snow, and a "cold term" which the weather prophet of Brooklyn Heights (Merriam) called the coldest for 70 years. Our DAILY WEATHER NOTES, condensed, read: December 21; rainy day—23, cool and rough wind—23, clear A. M., cloudy P. M., with light rain at night—24, clear and warm—25, 26, freezing weather—27, 28, mild—29, 30, light fall of snow—31, thick fog with some rain.—1859. January 1, moderate rain—2, clear and cool—3, cloudy, snow at night—4, heavy N. E. snow storm, 18 inches deep—5, clear and fine—6, fine day with rain at night and on most of the 7th—8, snow squalls—9, clear and cold (10°)—10, coldest day for many years, mercury 9° to 10° below zero here, and 30° to 30° degrees in some places, all day, people badly frostbitten, some fatal cases—11, very cold morning, 12° below zero, but moderating during the day—12, cloudy and milder—13, foggy and cloudy—14, light rain—15 to 20 mostly clear, fine and mild weather, the past few days very fine and even warm—21, still warm as Spring, with considerable rain to-day.

## Business Notices.

— Fifty Cents a Line.

### GROVER & BAKER'S CELEBRATED FAMILY SEWING MACHINES,

495 BROADWAY, NEW-YORK.

A New Style. Price \$50.

Wheeler & Wilson's, Singer's, and Grover & Baker's Machines, all work under Howe's Patent, and are so far the best Machines. \* \* For our own family use, we become fully satisfied that Grover & Baker's Machine is the best, and we accordingly purchased it.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

### Wheeler and Wilson's Sewing Machines.

"None are better adapted to Family Use."  
*American Agriculturist, Dec. 1858.*

PRICES GREATLY REDUCED.  
Office 505 Broadway, New-York.  
SEND FOR A CIRCULAR.

### Books Supplied.

The rule of this office is, to receive no orders for implements, seeds, or other articles. Still, as Agricultural and Horticultural Books are immediately connected with our business, and to be able to get them readily, is a matter of great convenience to many of our readers living remote from regular book stores, we very cheerfully supply any book or books called for by letter or otherwise. Most publishers allow us discount enough to cover the expense of procuring, mailing, and postage; and we can consequently send any book desired, postage paid, on receiving the usual retail price. N. B. Books going over 3000 miles are charged double postage. Therefore subscribers living at that distance, will need to remit about 20 cents extra for each dollar's worth of books desired, as the extra postage averages just about twenty per cent on the price of books.

If not pre-paid the postage on books is 2 cents per ounce under 3000 miles, and 3 cents per ounce if over 3000 miles. The average weight of books (including wrapping paper) is about one ounce for each 5 cents of price; thus a book costing \$1, when ready for mailing, weighs about 20 ounces—some weigh more, and some less.

### Sale of Engravings.

We daily receive requests for stereotype copies of, or the loan or purchase of most of the engravings that appear in the *Agriculturist*. These come from not only many of our exchanges but from dealers in implements, nurserymen, etc., and they have become so numerous that it is impossible to reply individually by letter.

There are several reasons for declining to furnish duplicates, or loan the use of these cuts, the chief one being the great number of applications for them. There are many special cases where we would be glad to furnish them, but should we do so, those refused the courtesy would have reasonable ground of complaint on seeing them in other journals unless the specific reasons were in every case given to all others. To this we might add, that there is the same reason for preserving the original

engravings in the *Agriculturist*, as there is for keeping them in a copy-righted book. We have large sales of "back volumes"—the sales of these amounting to many more copies than are sold of many published books. If, then, the illustrations of the value in these volumes, were furnished freely to all, the back volumes would soon become stale or of little peculiar worth. This objection would not, however, be a great one with us, were it not for the labor and expense involved in attempting to furnish them when desired, as we must do this in all cases, or none.

### Many Thanks

are due, and feelingly offered, to the old subscribers of this paper for the great interest they have this year manifested in promoting its circulation among their friends and neighbors. The daily receipts of subscribers for three months past have been a good deal more than double what they were during the same period one year ago—or ever before in the same time. With only the usual current receipts, the ordinary expenses of the present volume are provided for. But we can profitably (to the readers) lay out additional expense upon these pages beyond what we have designed, and will do so if our friends continue their good offices in increasing the subscription list at the present time. There are at least a few persons within the acquaintance of almost every one, upon whom a special benefit would be conferred if they were persuaded, even against their will, to become readers of these pages. Please look over the diversified sixty-four pages of this volume thus far issued, and then bearing in mind that 320 more are yet to come—all of which will be got up under more favorable circumstances—let us ask whether the current volume will not be worth to every family in the land, much more than its small cost. May we look for your response during the present month in the form of new subscribers. We do not believe we are entirely selfish in desiring to have every tiller of the soil especially, become a reader of these pages, or those of some similar journal. We firmly believe that every cultivator who reads more and thinks more, will become not only more successful in his calling, but every way better and happier.

### Plenty of Time to Secure the Premiums.

More than two hundred valuable premiums have been already sent out to individuals, for the large lists of subscribers obtained by them this year. There is an abundance of time the present winter for hundreds of others to obtain similar rewards for their efforts. This month is even a more favorable time than the preceding one. People are now beginning to think about the labors of next season, and they will be more ready than ever to receive the aid they may derive from a practical journal devoted to their occupation. Again, this and the previous number (though got up at our most hurried business season, and necessarily less valuable than those which are to come) are yet sufficiently valuable we trust to serve as attractive specimens of the current volume. Any numbers soiled or lost, by exhibiting them to others, we will cheerfully replace by fresh copies. Show-bills will also be sent when desired. For want of room we have dropped some of the less important premiums, but those published on page 58 are worthy of effort. These premiums are only offered for obtaining subscribers to begin with this volume, and the offer of them will be continued so long as canvassers find it practicable to obtain subscribers from that date.

### Increase of Letter Postage.

We should deem it necessary to go out of our appropriate sphere to discuss this topic, if we believed there was a possibility even, of the success of the present movement at Washington, to increase the rates of letter postage. Government now monopolizes the business, refuses to be responsible for the thefts and losses of its agents, and charges more than one dollar a pound for all letters carried! The average weight of letters is about 1/16 of an ounce. Allowing them to be to exactly this weight, at the rate of 3 cents per letter the postage is \$1.28 per pound. The Department is running behind its expenses, it is true, but it is the height of absurdity to talk of meeting the income by raising the postage on letters—already higher than it should be. Any one of our large Express Companies will very gladly pay the Government a large bonus for the privilege of delivering all legitimate letters, newspapers, etc., now carried by mail, both in this country, and in Canada, Europe, California, Oregon, etc., and do it at a less rate than is now charged; and they would furthermore become responsible for all losses of valuable letters entrusted to their care.

It is idle to expect that the income of the Department should meet its expenses, as things are now arranged.

Shall the epistolary correspondence of the people be taxed for the carriage of six runs of franked matter sent to a country post-office where the entire letters of a year would not weigh a ton? We have known of such an instance. Shall every letter between friends—weighing less than half an ounce—be taxed 5 cents instead of 3 cents, as is proposed, to enable the Department to pay enormous salaries to political favorites?

### The Basket Missing.

The more pressing labors of our "harvest season" are nearly over, and we shall soon have time to devote to the mass of communications, notes, queries, books, magazines, reports, etc., received during the past two months. The "basket" now buried beneath its over-flowing contents will be "dug out"—and kept in sight hereafter.

**"Pure Religion."**—One who signs himself a Free Thinker, writes us at length, wishing our opinion, of what pure religion is, and attempts to depreciate the influence of the Bible, etc. These pages are not the appropriate place for the discussion of such questions, but to "Free Thinker," who is so much troubled with the defects of Christians, and the crimes in Bible lands, we would say: If people under the influence of the Bible are so bad, what would they be without it? What people without the Bible would be willing to exchange places with? Among what people without the Bible is to be found the philosophy, the astronomy, and the basis of any "moral education" which he would teach his child. Oh no, friend. The unregenerate human heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, and let us be thankful for what of good we have received from the Bible, and try to get more of it.

**McKay's Grapes.**—We have to-day (Jan. 17), eaten Isabella grapes, in very good condition from a box received in November, from the well-known "one acre," cultivated by E. A. McKay, at Naples, Ontario Co., N. Y. They are put up in paper boxes, three inches deep, with cotton batting under, between, and above the bunches. They came by express without injury.

**A STRONG MEDICINE.**—The following story, perhaps on its fortieth round, is as good as ever, and specially applicable to some of the recent puffs of artificial fertilizers. A manufacturer of patent medicines sent some of his "Balsam" to a friend, and requested a strong recommendation, and received this reply: "Dear Sir—The land composing my farm had hitherto been so poor that a Scotchman could not get a living off it; and so stony that we had to slice our potatoes and plant them edgewise, but hearing of your 'balsam,' I put some on a ten-acre lot, surrounded by a rail-fence, and in the morning I found that the rocks had entirely disappeared, a neat stone wall encircled the field, and the rails were split into oven-wood, and piled up systematically in my back yard. I put half an ounce in the middle of a blackberry swamp; in two days it was cleared off, planted with corn and pumpkins, and a row of peach-trees in full blossom through the middle. As an evidence of its tremendous strength, I would say that it drew a striking likeness of my eldest son out of a mill-pond, drew a blister all over his stomach, drew a load of potatoes four miles to market, and eventually drew a prize of ninety-seven dollars in a lottery."

**Landlord.**—"Mr. Editor, I'll thank you to say I keep the best table in the city." **Editor.**—"I'll thank you to supply my family with board gratis." **Landlord.**—"I thought you were glad to get something to fill up your paper." **Editor.**—"I thought you were glad to get somebody to fill your house. It's a poor rule that wont work both ways." Exit landlord in a rage, threatening to have nothing more to do with that stingy office.

A kind hearted Vermont physician, having frequently missed wood from his yard, kept watch, and discovered a neighbor carefully selecting an armful of dry wood and starting for home with it. The Doctor hastily gathered up an armful of green wood, and followed, tugging as fast as he could, and just as the man threw down his armful, the doctor did the same, exclaiming, "There, you must burn green wood a part of the time—I have to," and departed, leaving the thief to his own reflection.

A confirmed tippler was bothered how to honor his birth-day; he wished to do something extraordinary. A brilliant idea struck him. He kept sober.

200,000 pounds weight of women's hair is annually sold in France, and that the price paid for it is usually six cents an ounce.

"Mike, what sort of potatoes are you planting there?" "Raw ones, sure—your honor would'n't be thinking I was planting boiled ones."

Some young men are so fast that they keep always ahead of common sense.



The circulation of the Agriculturist to regular subscribers, is much larger than that of any other Agricultural or Horticultural Journal in the world.

## Advertisements.

Advertisements to be sure of insertion must be received at latest by the 15th of the preceding month.

TERMS—(invariably cash before insertion):

FOR THE ENGLISH EDITION ONLY.

Twenty-five cents per line of space for each insertion. About 9 words make a line, if undisplayed.  
One whole column (145 lines) or more, \$30 per column.  
Business Notices Fifty cents per line.

FOR THE GERMAN EDITION ONLY.

Ten cents per line of space for each insertion.  
One whole column (130 lines), or more, \$11 per column.  
Business Notices twenty cents per line.

FOR BOTH EDITIONS—ENGLISH AND GERMAN.

Thirty-one cents per line; \$38 per column.  
Business Notices Sixty-five cents per line.

**BOY WANTS A SITUATION—A**  
young lad, 16 years old, strong and active, with a scientific farmer, where he can learn farming in all its branches, for a term of five years. He has been for two years at a small place in the country. Would prefer State of New York or one of the middle or Western States. Would expect wages enough to find him in clothes, &c. Address S. H. A., Box 2689 New York City P. O.

## FARM PRODUCE

Sold on Commission,

Such as Flour, Butter, Cheese, Lard, Provisions of all kinds Grain, Eggs, Poultry, Game, &c. &c.

HAIGHT & EMENS, 226 Front-st., New-York.  
Refers to the Editor American Agriculturist.  
R. H. Haydock, Cashier Market Bank, New-York.

## CAUTION TO PURCHASERS OF

Movable Comb Bee Hives.

As sundry persons are selling hives with MOVABLE FRAMES, the public are hereby informed that the owners of L. L. Langstroth's Patent, believe that such Hives are infringements upon their rights. They are preparing to establish the validity of the Langstroth Patent by an appeal to the Courts of Law—and those purchasing interfering patents may lose the money invested in them.

## The Metropolitan Washing Machine.

This machine is constantly coming into favor. No person who gives it a fair trial fails to like it. It revolutionizes Washing Day, saving more than half the expense, time and labor, of Wash-day—is perfectly simple, admirably adapted to the wants of North and the South. Send for a circular.

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Sole owner of North and South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, California, Oregon, & Georgia.

**EVERY AGRICULTURIST SHOULD**  
have a GOOD BAROMETER to foretell the weather in securing his crops. TIMBY'S MERCURIAL BAROMETER is the only reliable one manufactured that is portable.  
E. H. BABCOCK, Agent, 411 Broadway, N. Y.

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A LARGE AND WELL GROWN STOCK OF THE  
TREES AND PLANTS

more or less of which every one needs who has the smallest piece of ground for cultivation. Planters of Orchards find our trees succeeding well, where they have given the requisite culture, and multitudes who are unable to plant so largely are annually enjoying the fruit, flower, and shade which they have procured from us.

We invite the attention of buyers to our collection of standard and dwarf FRUIT TREES, Grape Vines and all the different smaller fruits, berries, &c.

To those who are adorning their places whether large or small, we shall be glad to show our collection of Ornamental Trees and Plants which is unsurpassed in the country. Our Avenue Trees are large and vigorous. Our Lawn Trees and Shrubs are of the finest varieties, and we know will give satisfaction to the purchaser.

Of hardy EVERGREENS, we have a large and well grown stock and to these we invite special attention. Those who are forming or increasing their collection of Green-House Plants will, we are confident, find here a stock unsurpassed in variety and thriftiness.

The Rose, so necessary to every garden, we grow on its own root, our experience having taught us that budded roses will disappoint those who cultivate them. We can not name here all the choice varieties of our FRUITS, nor give in detail the ORNAMENTAL list, but must refer purchasers to our general priced catalogues, which will be supplied to all applicants.

Our List of APPLES contains the best Summer, Autumn and Winter varieties, both for market and for family use.

PEARS, both Standard and Dwarf for the different seasons. PEACHES, a large stock of the best sorts.

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OUR GRAPE VINES for culture under glass are well known to be of strong, vigorous growth. Our collection of NATIVE GRAPES embraces both the old standard sorts, and the newer ones now so popular.

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NEW-ROCHELLE BLACKBERRY.

CHERRY and other CURRANTS.

RASPBERRIES, ANTWERP, FASTOLFF, and others.

LINNEUS RHUBARB.

Among our

LAWN AND AVENUE TREES are

MAPLE, Norway, Sugar, Sycamore, Silver-leaf. These are all very valuable either for stately growth or beautiful foliage.

The TULIP TREE, in form unsurpassed.

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The PAULOWNIA, with its monster leaves and beautiful flowers.

LINDENS, European and American.

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The MAGNOLIA with its superb flowers and handsome form.

DECIDUOUS CYPRESS, of beautiful foliage.

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LIQUIDAMBAR, one of the finest of our native trees.

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KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE.

The BEECH, American and European, erect, purple, and pendulous sorts.

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Many other kinds indispensable to a good collection will be found in our Catalogue and will be shown of fine quality to Visitors to our grounds.

Among our valuable DECIDUOUS SHRUBS are

The AZALEAS of the Ghent and other sorts which, properly planted, form a gorgeous mass of bloom.

DEUTZIA in its varieties,

WEIGELIA do do

STUARTIA, a most desirable late blooming American plant. CHINESE PLUM, a double flowering and beautiful new variety. PIRUS JAPONICA, a brilliant bloomer.

HOLLY-LEAVED BERBERRY.

SPIRÆAS, of the best new sorts.

LILACS of the rarer sorts.

BUFFALO BERRY.

DECIDUOUS EUONYMUS or Burning Bush.

ANDROMEDA ARBOREA, a very rare, fine American plant.

FORSYTHIA, a profuse and early bloomer.

RIBES SANGUINEA.

HYDRANGEA QUERCIFOLIA, and many other fine kinds.

We devote special attention to the culture of EVERGREENS, and have a very fine stock of well-formed and well-rooted plants of many sizes, including NORWAY SPRUCE, the most desirable for general planting.

WHITE SPRUCE.

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AMERICAN BALSAM FIR.

EUROPEAN SILVER FIR.

AUSTRIAN PINE.

WHITE PINE.

EXCELSA PINE, quite the best of the Pine tribe.

SCOTCH FIR.

ATLAS CEDAR.

CEDAR OF LEBANON.

DEODAR CEDAR.

IRISH JUNIPER, pyramidal and striking in appearance.

SWEDISH JUNIPER.

SIBERIAN ARBOR VITE, the best of this genus.

AMERICAN do do.

&c., &c., &c.

Of the EVERGREEN SHRUBS, we have only space to mention:

HARDY RHODODENDRONS, both seedling and grafted, delightful to the eye, both in Summer and in Winter.

Among our VINES are:

GLYCINE SINENSIS, and its varieties.

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CLEMATIS of the fine new sorts.

HONEYSUCKLES of new varieties.

IVY &c., &c., &c.

Of the tree and herbaceous PRONIES we have a fine collection.

The different Hedge plants we can also offer.

Our GREEN-HOUSE PLANTS filling eight Houses, are enumerated in Catalogue No. 2, and are of the finest and rarest sorts, and are healthy and vigorous.

All the above named Trees and Plants with the rest of our collection we offer at prices, which we are sure will compare favorably with those of any grower in the country. We seek by fairness and liberality, and by careful execution and shipment of orders to preserve for our establishment the reputation which it has for many years possessed.

All Trees, Plants, etc., ordered of us will be carefully packed at a charge barely covering cost, and they will be delivered at Fulton Market Wharf, New-York City, free of freight charges.

Catalogues will be forwarded by mail without charge, and can also be obtained at No. 179 Broadway, N. Y.

N. B.—Any one wishing to visit the above Nurseries, Gardens, Green-Houses, etc., can easily do so at almost all hours of the day. The through time from Fulton Wharf, N. Y. City, to Flushing, is only 50 minutes. By going themselves and making their selections, purchasers will perhaps suit themselves better, and know exactly what they are buying. Orders left to the selection of the Proprietors will be attended to with the utmost care.

## THE HORTICULTURIST and Journal of Rural Art.

Established by A. J. Downing, in 1846, Edited by J. Jay Smith

Is published monthly, by

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January, 1859.

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can at any time be increased, by remitting for each addition the price paid by the original members—provided the subscriptions all date back to the same starting point. The back numbers will of course be sent to all added names.

## Unavoidable Delays—Explanations.

**Delay of Papers.**—With six to twelve hundred subscribers arriving daily, it has been impossible to always get the names all selected from the letters, properly arranged on the books, and the papers started off at once. Three times, our entire stock of Dec. and Jan. numbers have run out, and a little delay has been caused by waiting for new editions to be printed. In a few cases—certainly very few—there may have been an accidental omission or mistake in forwarding the back numbers, and in others the mails have been at fault. In at least one case a whole mail was submerged by a freshet, and the newspapers, with some letters, spoiled—we know not how many of ours. In all these cases we shall be happy to be informed of the non-arrival of any number, and will promptly forward a duplicate. We have, as usual, several remittances where the name, or Post Office, or State, has been omitted by the sender. These must remain unattended to until further information is forwarded—with the usual "blowing up" of course.

**Delay of Seeds.**—Our seeds of American growth are put up and ready for forwarding—but a large lot from Europe, which should have been here the first of the year, have not yet (Jan. 20) come to hand. We have an invoice of them, and advice of their shipment in December. We expect them at any moment, and as soon as they come and can be got through the Custom House, we shall have them put up and started off as rapidly as possible. We have already a large accumulation of envelopes sent in, which are sorted for being filled as soon as all the varieties of seeds are ready.

N.B.—As the envelopes are classified according to the kinds to be put into them, it will not unfrequently happen that different letters to the same individual will go at intervals of a week or two; thus: No. 71 may chance to go one week, No. 21 the next week, and No. 2 a week or two later still, and so of other kinds.

The above explanations will answer a score or two of queries already received.

## Hint to Railroad Conductors.

A Conductor on a Railroad in one of the farming valleys of Pennsylvania, put an *Agriculturist* in his pocket as a sample, and when opportunity offered exhibited it to farmers who chanced to take passage in his train. As the result he sent us 146 subscribers, Dec. 24, and we at once forwarded him the prize of a \$50 Wheeler & Wilson sewing machine. He has since, up to this date (Jan. 18,) sent in 114 additional names, and expects to do much more. All this has been done without detriment to the R. R. Company, but rather to their advantage, for the *Agriculturist* will doubtless help to increase the product of the 256 farms where these numbers go, so much that in a few years the freight business of the road will be largely advanced from this cause alone. At least two other Conductors are engaged in a similar enterprise. "A word to the wise," etc.

## Sewing Machines—Explanations.

We have purposely avoided expressing any preference between the Wheeler & Wilson and the Grover & Baker Sewing Machines, simply from the reason that we have used both for a year past, and like both exceedingly well. They each have peculiar excellences. In response to the oft repeated enquiry "why we offer only one kind in our premium list, when we formerly expressed a preference for the other," we reply that that opinion was given when we had only used one. Our more recent experience, with both machines in daily use, led us to believe that, every thing considered, those we offer would best suit the wants of those who would be likely to receive them as premiums. We therefore decided to offer this kind only, since by concentrating our purchases upon one kind, we could take a larger number, and get and offer them at a lower rate.

## 3-cent vs. 10-cent Postage Stamps.

Owing to a large California subscription, where 10-cent P. O. Stamps are chiefly in vogue, we have received remittances of many hundreds of dollars in this currency—more than we can find sale for in this City, as the P. O.

Department never redeems its own "issues." Since 3-cent stamps are in more common use, and therefore more readily disposed of, we request that when just as convenient, subscribers would send these instead of 10-cent stamps. N. B.—A piece of paper should always be placed against the gummed side when sheets of stamps are folded in a letter—to prevent their adhering.

## When Subscriptions Begin.

When not directly stated to the contrary, we invariably consider every new subscription received, as designed to begin with the volume, and the names are so entered on the Mail Books and the back numbers forwarded. All the numbers being stereotyped, we always have on hand back numbers for any month—in English, from January 1857, and in German, from July 1858.

## Bound Volumes—Binding—Covers.

We have bound sets, of Vols. XVI and XVII, singly, and also both volumes in one cover. The prices of these are:

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Of Vol. XV, we have no copies, and unfortunately, no stereotyped plates.

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